インフォーサー

聖痕

古屋兎丸

IKKI COMICS

THE LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR

LA CROISADE DES INNOCENTS

インビジブル少年探偵団

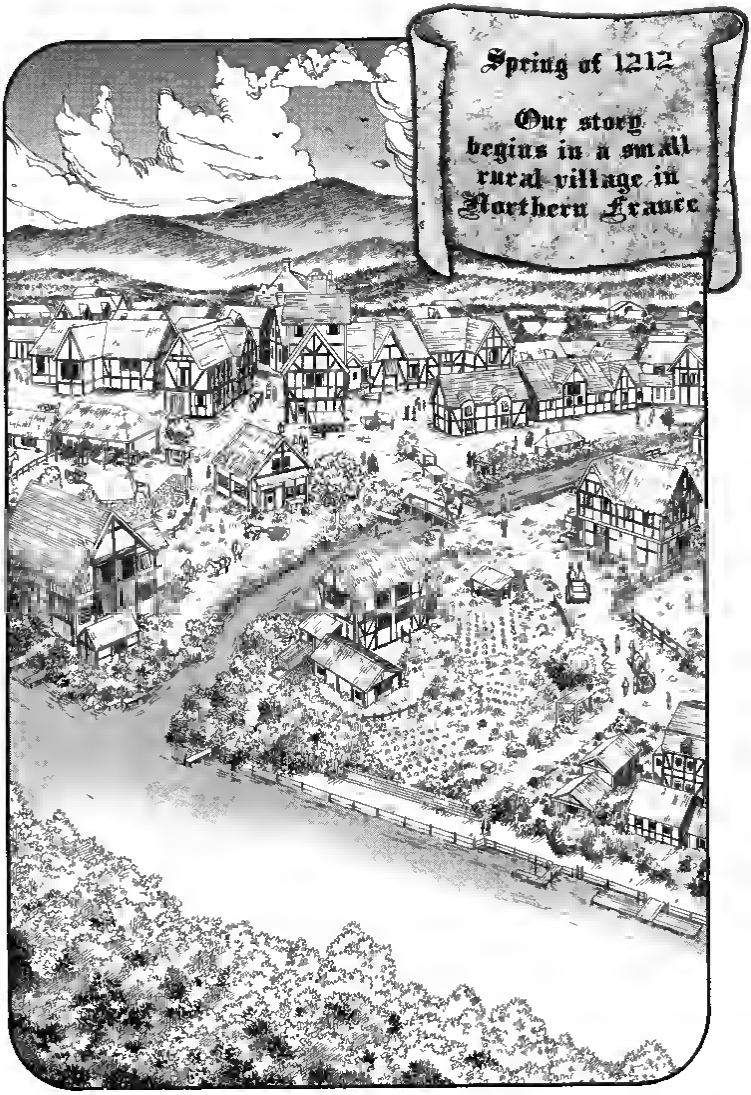
江戸川乱歩

少年兵団 虐殺の古城 2

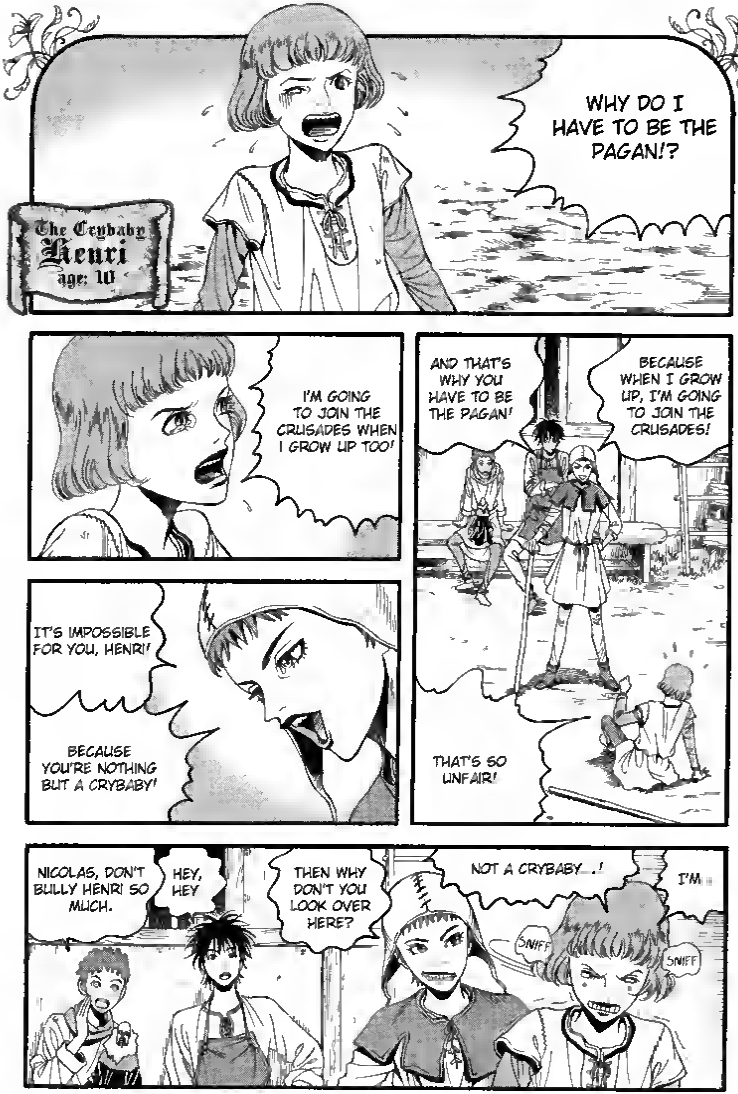
contents

Supple necks, red lips, voices still as high as young girls.
Slender legs still growing.
The fragile-looking hands they hold their swords with.
Hundreds of these young boys walked in file across Zeaure centuries ago.

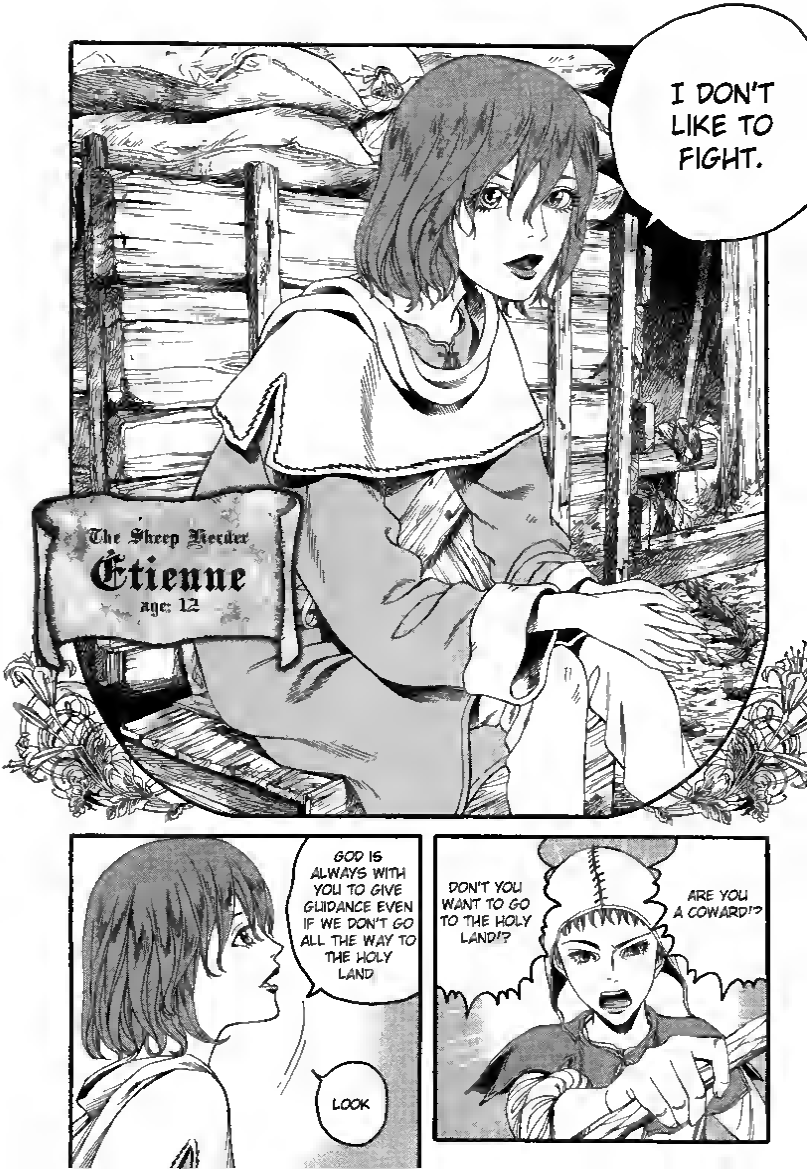
Chapter 1: 1212


Spring of 1212
Our story begins in a small rural village in Northern France

HAHHH!
COME ON HENRI, YOU'RE BEING DOMINATED!
DOING GREAT, NICOLAS!
HAA HAA!
AGH!
UGH!
AH!
TOO BAD, SO SAD, PAGAN!
The son of a knight
Nicolas
age: 12


WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE PAGAN!?
The Crybaby Henri age: 10
I'M GOING TO JOIN THE CRUSADES WHEN I GROW UP TOO!
AND THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO BE THE PAGAN!
BECAUSE WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GOING TO JOIN THE CRUSADES!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, HENRI!
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CRYBABY!
THAT'S SO UNFAIR!
NICOLAS, DON'T BULLY HENRI SO MUCH.
HEY, HEY
THEN WHY DON'T YOU LOOK OVER HERE?
NOT A CRYBABY..!
I'M
SNIFF
SNIFF

I'D WISH TO BE ABLE TO EAT RABBIT STEW EVERY NIGHT!
HEY, I HEARD THAT YOU CAN GET ANY WISH GRANTED IF YOU GO TO THE HOLY LAND OF JERUSALEM!
The Boy at the Sun
Luc
age: 14
LEONARDO! DON'T SAY SUCH SHAMELESS THINGS!
I'D LIKE TO BECOME 20 AGAIN SO I COULD GET DOWN WITH THE LADIES. . HEE HEE .!
The Joker
Marr
age: 13
YOU'RE GOING TO COME WITH AND FIGHT, RIGHT?
HEY, ÉTIENNE!
ALRIGHT!
YEAH!
LET'S ALL GO TO JERUSALEM TOGETHER ONE DAY!
COUNT ME IN!
ME?
M-ME TOO!

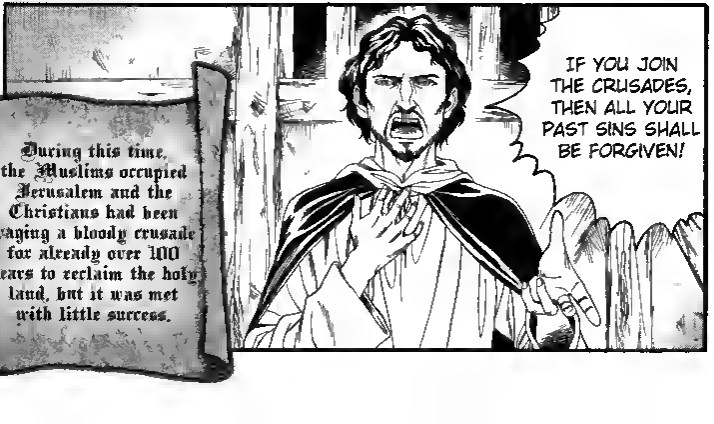

I DON'T LIKE TO FIGHT.
The Sheep Herder
Étienne
age: 12
GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU TO GIVE GUIDANCE EVEN IF WE DON'T GO ALL THE WAY TO THE HOLY LAND
LOOK
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE HOLY LAND!?
ARE YOU A COWARD!?

HE SAYS IT'S ABOUT TO RAIN
RAIN, HUH?
WELL, ÉTIENNE IS ALWAYS RIGHT ABOUT THE WEATHER.
AH, I HAVE TO BRING THE SHEEP BACK TO THEIR PEN!
THE REST OF US SHOULD GO BACK TO WORK TOO.
YEAH.
WAIT FOR ME!

THE HOLY LAND OF JERUSALEM.
The Intelligent Boy
Christian
age: 14

OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, MUST SURELY BE CRYING TEARS OF BLOOD!
THE HOLY LAND OF JERUSALEM HAS BEEN DESECRATED BY THE PAGANS AND OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN MASSACRED!
THE TIME TO VANQUISH THE PAGANS IS NOW!
IT'S A PREACHER!

LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD!
HUH, WHAT'S THIS RUCKUS ABOUT?


During this time, the Muslims occupied Jerusalem and the Christians had been waging a bloody crusade for already over 100 years to reclaim the holy land, but it was met with little success.
IF YOU JOIN THE CRUSADES, THEN ALL YOUR PAST SINS SHALL BE FORGIVEN!

OOH, ME, ME, ME! I WANT TO GO AND FIGHT!
NICOLAS!
I WANT TO JOIN THE CRUSADES RIGHT AWAY!
The first one to answer the preacher's call to join the Crusades was an easily-influenced young boy.
HAHA, YOU'RE JUST A KID THOUGH
I'M NO KID, I'M ALREADY 12!
JUST TWO MORE YEARS AND I'LL EVEN GET MARRIED, YOU KNOW!
I'M ALREADY AN ADULT!
COUGH
HAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT
PROBABLY HASN'T EVEN GROWN ANY HAIR DOWN THERE!
STOP SUCH VULGAR TALK IN FRONT OF THE PREACHER!

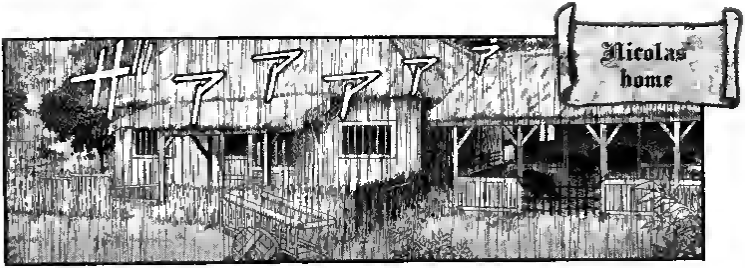
A POOR PEASANT LIKE YOU WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET TO THE STARTING POINT FOR THE CRUSADES!
YOU NEED MONEY TO FIGHT, YOU PAUPER!
The Child of Calamity
Guillaume
age 12
HEH HEH
A BRAZEN IDIOT AS ALWAYS!
GUILLAUME!
YOU'RE BETTER OFF LOOKING AFTER THE LIVESTOCK IN THIS TOWN!
YEAH, HAVE FUN BEING COVERED IN PIG SHIT!
The Quarreller
Pierre
age: 11
NICOLAS!
NGGHHHH!

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
NICOLAS!
Y-YOU WANT TO START SOMETHING, IS THAT IT!?
VIOLENCE IS WRONG, NICOLAS!
H-HEY, STO...
AI
NICOLAS!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING TO THE LORD OF THE MANOR'S SON!?
YOU FOOLISH CHILD!
WHAT INSOLENT BEHAVIOUR!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED ANY BETTER FROM AN ORPHAN
PLEASE FORGIVE THE RUDENESS OF MY NEPHEW
GUILLAUME AND PIERRE
I SWEAR TO PUNISH HIM ACCORDINGLY, SO I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS
YOU BETTER GIVE HIM 100 LASHES AS PUNISHMENT!
HMPH. HE THINKS HE'S ALL THAT JUST BECAUSE HE'S RICH!!
YEAH!

A HEAVY RAINSTORM IS ABOUT TO COME!
EVERYONE!
IT'S GOING TO RAIN SOON, YOU MUST FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY!
BUT JUST LOOK HOW CLEAR THE SKIES ARE!
AH, MY LAUNDRY...!
ÉTIENNE'S WEATHER FORECASTS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT!
MY PIGS!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED TALKING!
UMM..
IT'S STRANGE, RIGHT?
BUT THAT BOY CAN TALK WITH THE WINDS AND CLOUDS
WHAT!?

HE'S THE PRIDE OF OUR LITTLE TOWN.
SORRY.
ガアアアアア
I WONDER IF NICOLAS IS ALRIGHT...

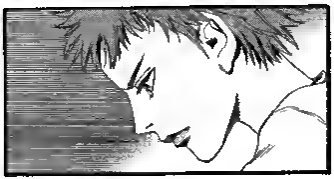

Nicolas' home

HAVE YOU REPENTED YOUR SINS?

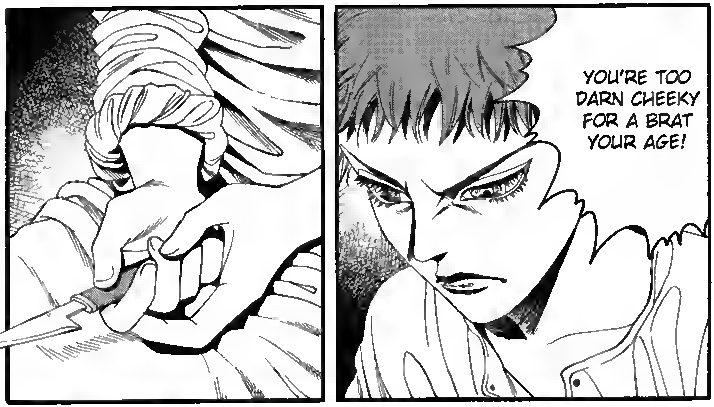
OW OW OWW
AGH

I.. I WANT TO BECOME A KNIGHT...
IS THAT SO WRONG..?

I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON.



YOU'RE THE SON OF A PIG FARMER! DON'T THINK ANYMORE FOOLISH THOUGHTS!
ARE YOU STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT!?


YOU'RE TOO DARN CHEEKY FOR A BRAT YOUR AGE!

COURAGE AND DREAMS AIN'T GONNA FEED THE PIGS, YOU KNOW!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED ANY BETTER FROM MY BROTHER'S SON!
SO IF I WERE AN ADULT, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE?

I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP MY DREAMS OF JOINING THE CRUSADES!
DON'T CALL ME BRAT ANYMORE!
NICOLAS!

IT'S...
IT'S JUST SO FRUSTRATING, ÉTIENNE ...
NICOLAS!
WHAT'S WITH THAT WOUND!?
NICOLAS..

SIZZZ
OWWW!
BECAUSE I'M THE SON OF KNIGHT...
IT...
DOESN'T... HURT A BIT...
NNNGH
BUT BEAR WITH ME, OKAY?
I KNOW IT HURTS,
MY DAD JOINED THE CRUSADES AND DIED .
OW!
SO I'M THE SON OF A KNIGHT, RIGHT?
OW!

WHEN THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CAME THROUGH OUR TOWN?
PANT
HEY, DO YOU REMEMBER?
PANT
DON'T YOU THINK BEING A KNIGHT AND A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY IS THE COOLEST THING, TOO!?
MY DREAM IS TO JOIN THE CRUSADES
AND BECOME ONE OF THE KNIGHTS Ttemplar SOMEDAY!

LORD,
PLEASE WATCH
OVER NICOLAS.

IT'S NOT ME
IT'S THE LORD'S DOING
THE PAIN JUST WENT AWAY MAGICALLY
YOU REALLY ARE STRANGE
SO WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE HOLY LAND?
HEY, ÉTIENNE
YOU'RE MORE OF A BELIEVER THAN ANYONE,
...
IT IS THE LORD WHO DECIDES,
WHO SHALL GO TO THE HOLY LAND AND WHO SHAN'T, NICOLAS

I BETTER LAY DOWN STRAW FOR THE SHEEP.
TONIGHT WILL BE QUITE COLD.
A TRUMPET?
?
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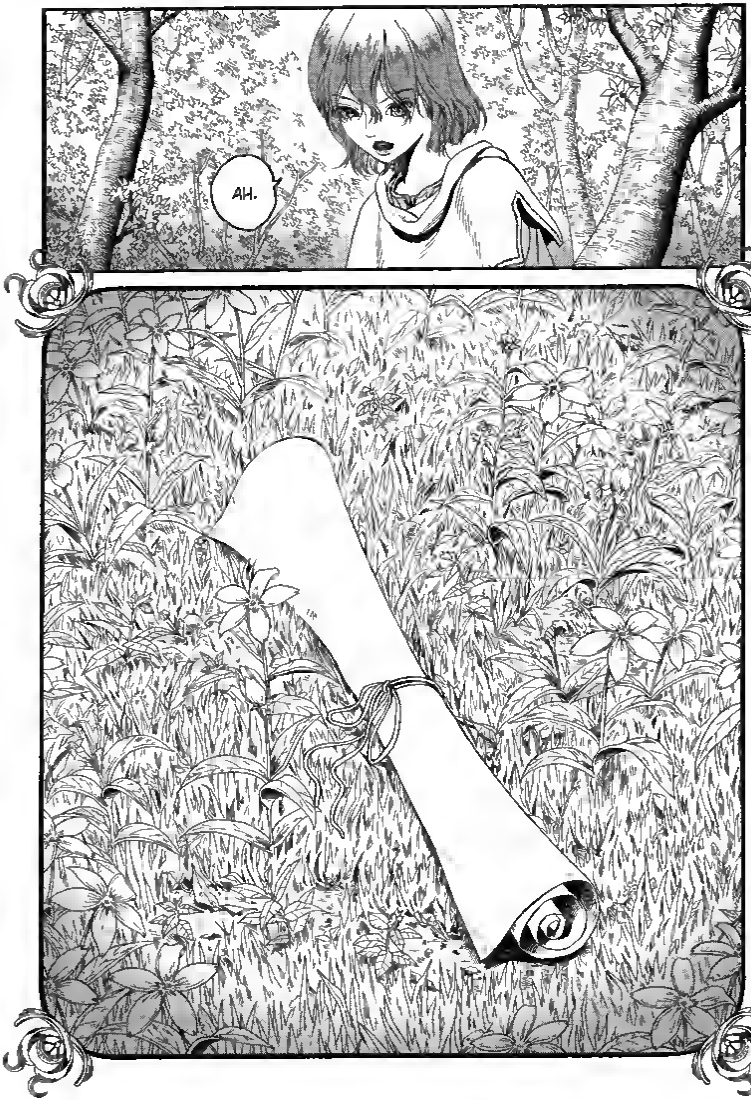
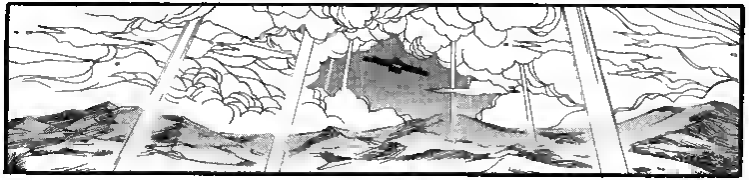
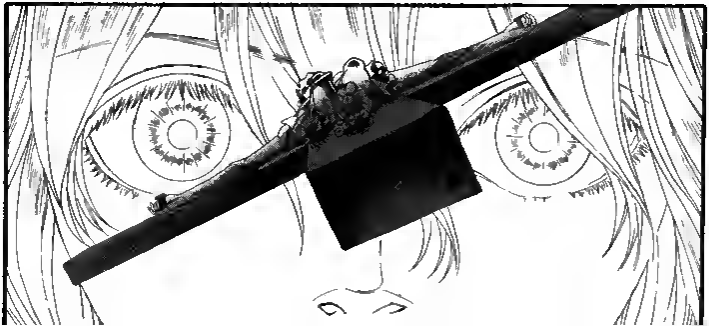
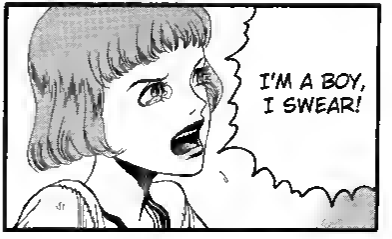

AH.

A LETTER?

BUT I CAN'T READ...
I WONDER WHAT'S WRITTEN ON IT?







La Croisade des Innocents

Usamaru Furuya

translation: hox
scans: st. francis
editing: king baldwin IV

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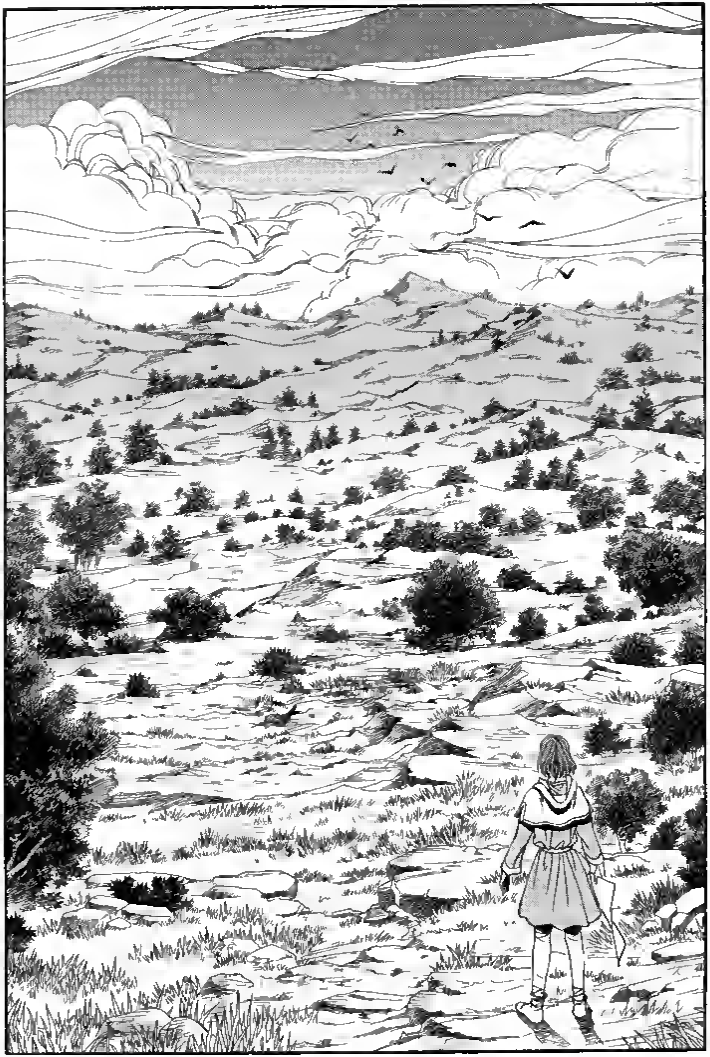
Chapter 2:
The Child of Miracles



W-WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
A TRUMPET?

BLOOD-RED...
WHAT A PRETTY TRUMPET...
NEVER SEEN SUCH A DESIGN BEFORE!!
ÉTIENNE
HM?

ÉTIENNE,
THE CHOSEN CHILD.
THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET SHALL GUIDE YOU TO THE HOLY LAND, FAR, FAR AWAY.

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THAT'S...
THE HOLY LAND, JERUSALEM.

GOOD DAY.
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE SOME LIGHT RAINFALL LATER TODAY.
BUY OUR CHEESE TO ENJOY WITH YOUR CHAMPAGNE!
GARLIC AND ONION PLEASE.
HOW'S THE FRESHLY CAUGHT EEL?
WINE FOR SALE!
DELICIOUS BLUE CHEESE!

HEY, DID IT HURT?
NICOLAS!
AHAHAHA!
AHAHAHA!
BUT YOUR SCAR...
IT'S IN THE SHAPE OF A CROSS!
Luc
DID IT HURT?
STOP LAUGHING SO MUCH!
Nicolas
HAHAHA!
ETIENNE SURE SEWED IT UP WELL!
Marc
HEY, NICOLAS.
JUST L-LOOKING AT IT
I-IT HURTS..
THEN STOP STARING!
Henri

IF YOU WERE GOING TO CUT YOURSELF, YOU SHOULD'VE CUT YOUR THROAT!
HEH HEH
Guillaume
Pierre
IDIOT!
YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE KID!
GUILLAUME!
NICHOLAS, STOP!
MN
YOU'LL BE BEATEN AGAIN!
GUILLAUME, YOU LITTLE...!

EVERYONE, IT'S AN EMERGENCY!!
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
ドドド

IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, THEN HAND OVER ANYTHING VALUABLE!

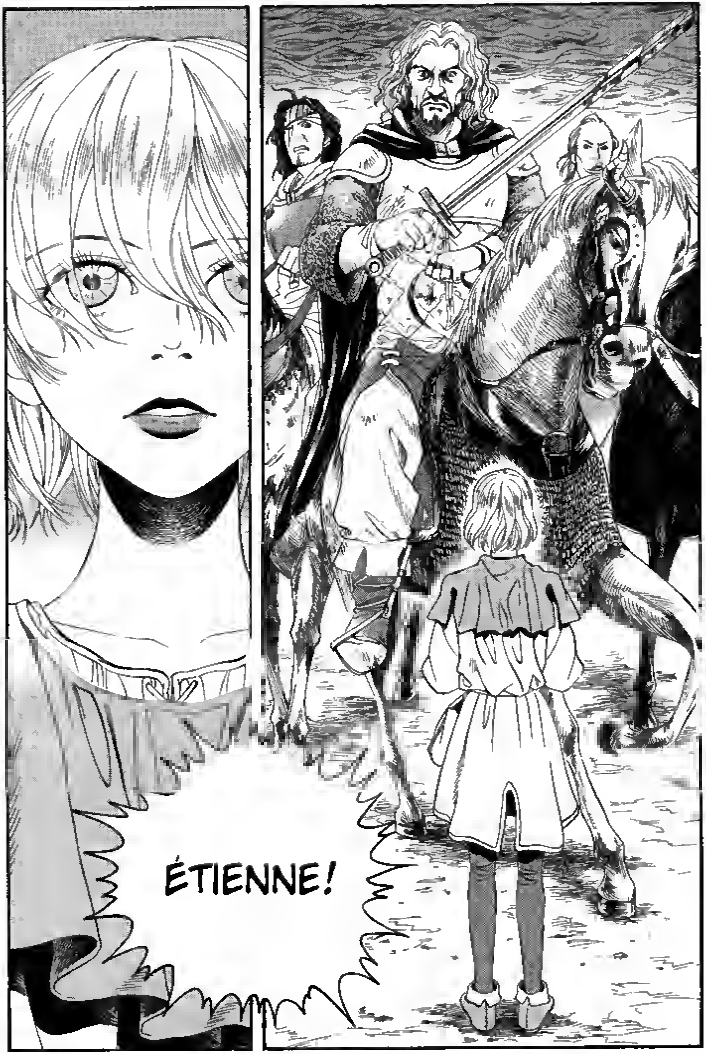
KYAAAA!
BANDITS!
PLEASE! STOP!
KYAAAA!
HELP ME!
AHHH!
GIVE ME THAT!
ドドド

THAT'S A NICE MANTEAU YOU HAVE THERE.
HAND IT OVER.
A-A-ALRIGHT! JUST DON'T KILL ME!
THE HELL! HE'S MY AGE!
WELL ISN'T SHE PRETTY?
A FINE WOMAN, THIS ONE IS.
KYAAA!
LET'S TAKE HER WITH US!

SIMON!
HUH?
L-LET GO OF HER!
KYAAAA! SIMON! SIMON!

SHIT...
THEY KILLED HER FIANCE RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER!
HOW CRUEL...
UWAAH!
GAH!
STOP!
IYAAH!
CAN'T STOP SHAKING...
HAH
HAH
I'M NO GOOD AT ALL!
YOU'RE THE SON OF A KNIGHT! SO CALM DOWN!
STOP BEING SUCH A KID!

I'LL TAKE AT LEAST ONE GUY DOWN WITH ME!
LET ME GO, HENRI!
NO, NICHOLAS!
YOU'LL BE KILLED!
I'M A KNIGHT!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT!
DON'T GO!
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
AHH!

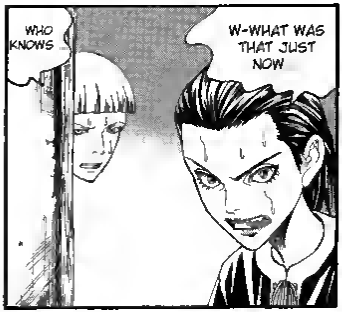

ÉTIENNE!

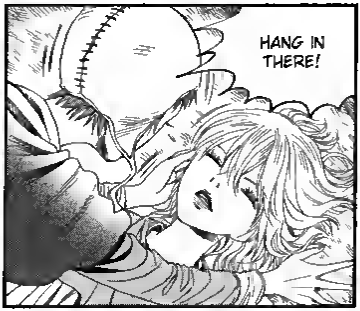
IT'S COM-PLETELY WHITE!
ETIENNE IS STRANGE
W-WHAT...?
WHY DID THE COLOUR OF HIS HAIR...?
THEY'RE AS BLUE AS THE SKY!
AND THE COLOUR OF HIS EYES,
AS LONG AS THE LORD GUIDES ME, I SHALL NOT BE AFRAID.
YOU'LL BE KILLED!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
AGHHH! IT'S TOO LATE!

WHAT!?
ARE YOU MAKING A FOOL OF ME!?
ÉTIENNE!

I'LL KILL YOU!
NO
WHAT!? WHAT'S WITH THAT TRUMPET!?
ÉTIENNE! RUN AWAY!
NOOOO!

ゴロゴロゴロ
LIGHT-NING!?
WHAT?
ÉTIENNE!


W-WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW
WHO KNOWS


HANG IN THERE!

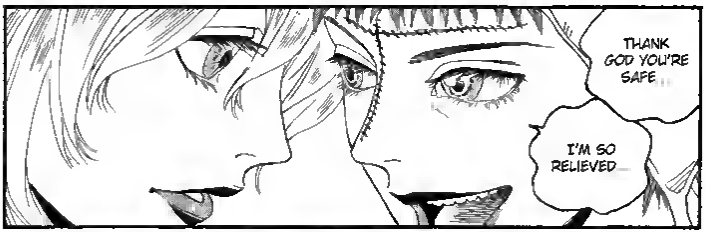
ÉTIENNE MADE A MIRACLE!
A MIRACLE!
MIRACLE...
IT'S A MIRACLE

HE'S A DEVIL!
AGHH!
T-THE BOSS IS..!
GET THEM!
THE REAL DEVILS HERE ARE YOU BANDITS!
AGHHH!
WAIT!
R-RUN AWAY!

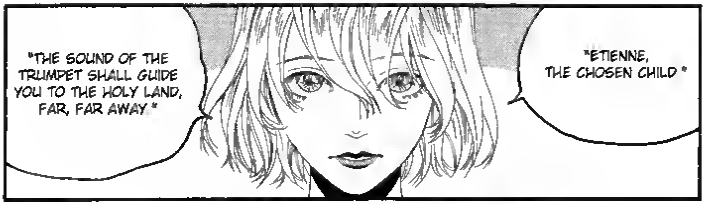
THIS IS FOR SIMON!
ボス
ガン
ドス
BASTARD!
ドドドドドド
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
AHH! HE BIT ME!
GAH!
WE CAUGHT ONE OF THEM!
HAAH
HAA
HEY! HE'S JUST A KID!
ゴッ
ゴッ
ゴッ
COUGH
COUGH

HE DESERVES TO BE BRUTALLY KILLED!
YEAH!
DOESN'T MATTER!
P ANT
P ANT
P ANT
MY COMRADES... WILL COME FOR REVENGE...
OR ELSE...
LET GO... OF ME ..
MIRACLE ...?
THEY RAN OFF AFTER BEING SCARED BY ÉTIENNE'S MIRACLE!
LIKE HELL THEY'LL COME BACK!
LITTLE SHIT!
ゴッ ガゴッ

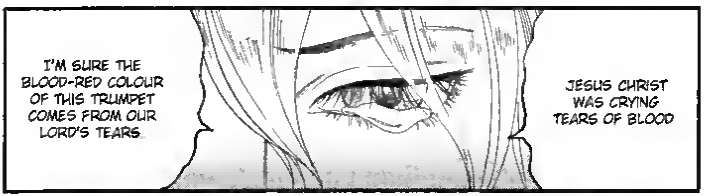
EVERYBODY, ÉTIENNE'S AWAKE!


THANK GOD YOU'RE SAFE...
I'M SO RELIEVED...

THIS IS...
T...


"THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET SHALL GUIDE YOU TO THE HOLY LAND, FAR, FAR AWAY."
"ETIENNE, THE CHOSEN CHILD."

JUST WHO READ THIS TO YOU?
YOU'RE JUST A SHEEP HERDER, YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO READ... AND THIS IS WRITTEN IN LATIN!


I'M SURE THE BLOOD-RED COLOUR OF THIS TRUMPET COMES FROM OUR LORD'S TEARS.
JESUS CHRIST WAS CRYING TEARS OF BLOOD

T-THE LORD SPOKE WITH YOU PERSONALLY!? ARE YOU CALLING YOURSELF A PROPHET!?

I SHALL FOLLOW THE LORD'S WORDS,
AND TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM, GUIDED BY THIS TRUMPET.

A PROPHET HAS DESCENDED UPON OUR VILLAGE!
A PROPHET!
WHAT?
#1 ?...
HUH?
?
GULP
N-NO, WE MUST FIRST SHOW THE ABBOT THIS LETTER AND THE TRUMPET BEFORE...
A PROPHET HAS COME FORTH FROM OUR VILLAGE!
#1 ?
A SAVIOUR...!?
WHAT!
#1 ?#1 ?
HE'S AMAZING!
SO ÉTIENNE WILL FREE THE HOLY LAND OF JERUSALEM?
IF IT'S HIM, IT JUST MIGHT BE POSSIBLE...

THE CHILD OF MIRACLES, ÉTIENNE!
THE ONE CHOSEN BY GOD!
And so the gears of fate began to turn for these children.

La Croisade des Innocents

Usamaru Furuya

translation: hox
scans: st. francis
editing: king baldwin IV

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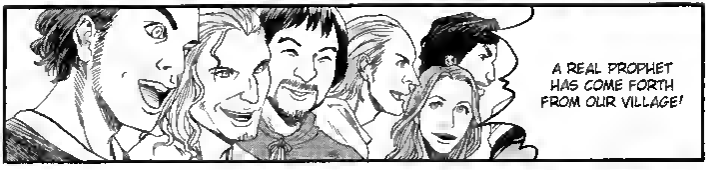
Chapter 3:
The Children's Crusade

The little village of Northern France was in an uproar after Etienne's miracle.


A REAL PROPHET HAS COME FORTH FROM OUR VILLAGE!

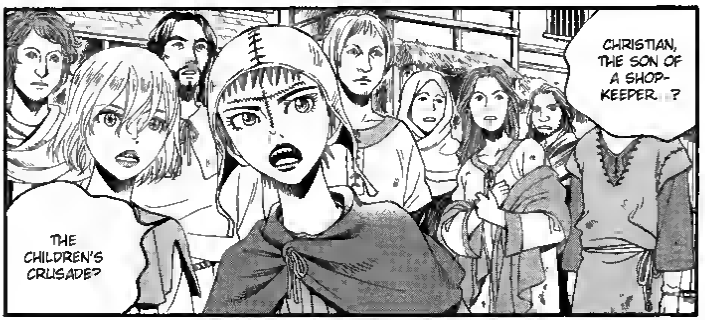
THE SHEEPHERDER BOY RECEIVED A LETTER AND A TRUMPET FROM THE LORD!

Around this time, Pope Innocent III sent out many preachers throughout Europe to recruit people for the Crusades.
ETIENNE!
ETIENNE!
ETIENNE!
EVEN HIS HAIR AND EYE COLOUR CHANGED!
THE CHILD OF MIRACLES, ÉTIENNE!
The people's longing for reclaiming the holy land of Jerusalem had always been great, and it was as if Étienne's miracle had answered their call.

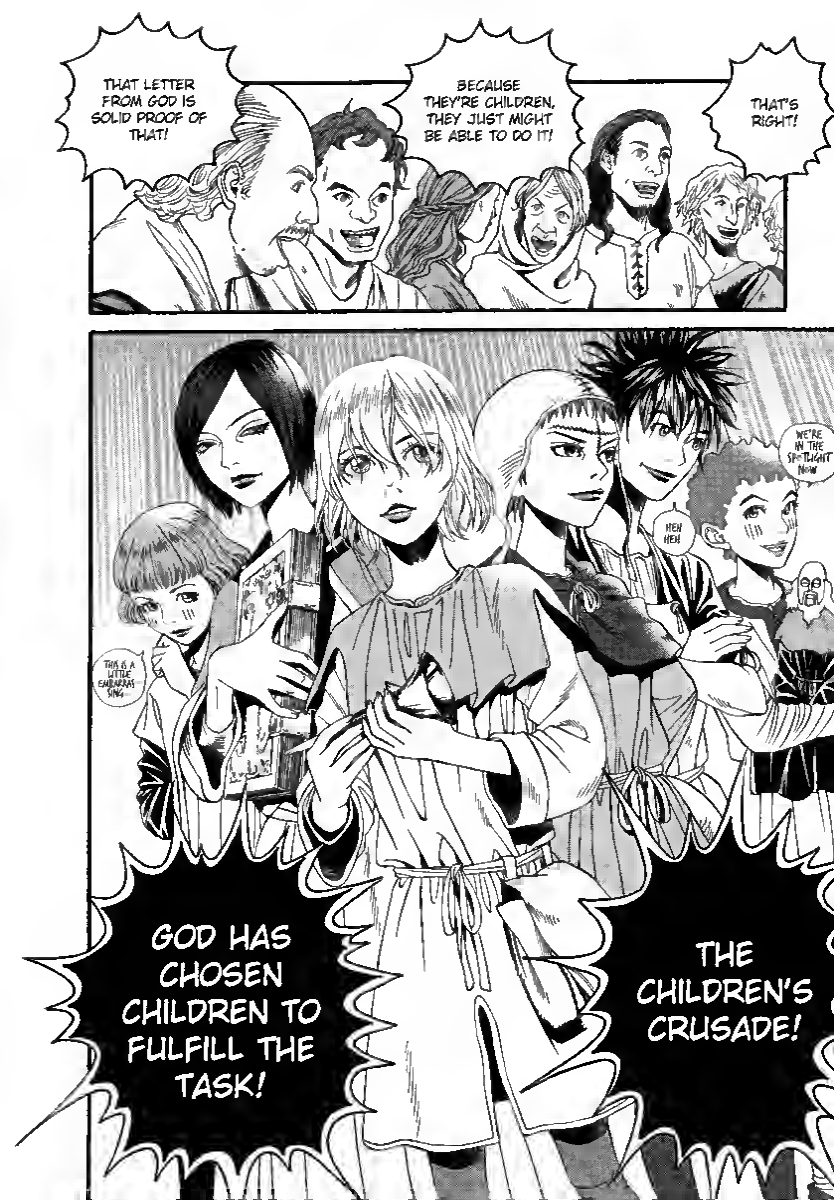
I'LL BE THE NUMBER ONE COMMANDING OFFICER!
I'M GOING TO GO WITH ÉTIENNE TO JERUSALEM!
Nicolas
THEN I'M NUMBER TWO!
WHAT, THAT'S NOT FAIR!
Henri
I'M GOING TOO!
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BE NUMBER THREE THEN!
Luc
OF COURSE I'M GOING AS WELL! I FOUGHT IN THE CRUSADES A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AND I LONG FOR THOSE GLORIOUS DAYS!
I'LL BE GOING. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
Leonardo
made in Italy
Marc

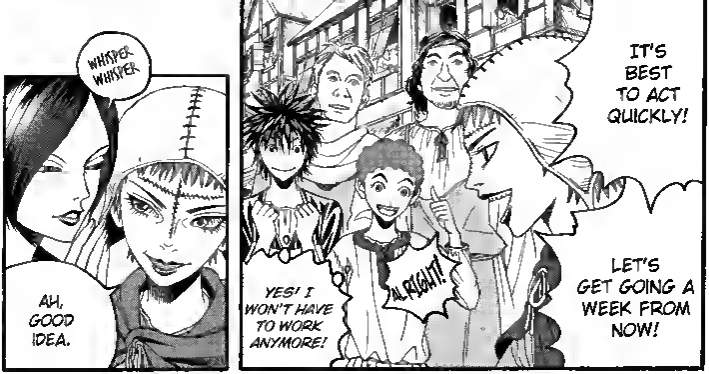
WE MUST HAVE SOME ADULTS GOING AS WELL
WE CAN'T HAVE THAT
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
HEY, HEY! THEY'RE JUST KIDS!
NO, NO, NO!
THAT'S TRUE, BUT
ALL THE CRUSADES FOUGHT BY THE ADULTS HAVE FAILED!
THOSE PEOPLE ARE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD...
BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE WHO BRING PEACE TO THIS WORLD...
ADULTS JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH!
THAT'S WHY IT'S GOTTA BE JUST US KIDS!

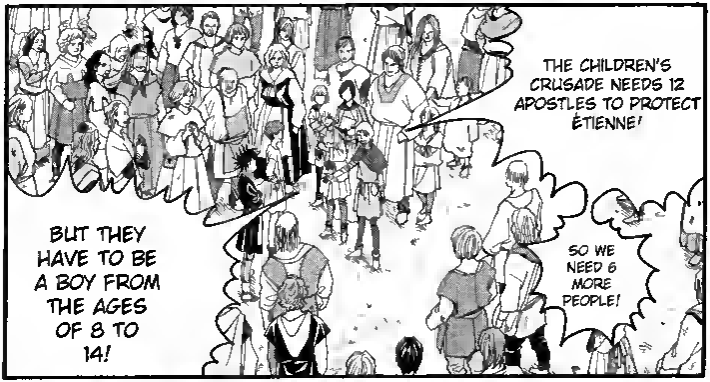
YOUR CHILDREN'S CRUSADE AS WELL.
LET ME JOIN,
Christian

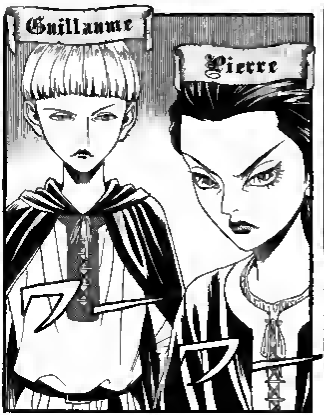

CHRISTIAN, THE SON OF A SHOP-KEEPER...?
THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE?

WE'RE GOING TO BE THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!
ALRIGHT!
CHILDREN'S CRUSADE? SOUNDS COOL!
YEAH!
THERE'S AN ELDERLY HERE AS WELL
YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN READ AND WRITE LIKE ME
TOWN ELDER!
CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!
THIS MAY TRULY BE GOD'S WISH
IF THE TASK OF RECLAIMING THE HOLD LAND OF JERUSALEM IS LEFT TO THESE CHILDREN
THESE CHILDREN, WITH PURE HEARTS, WILL MOST DEFINITELY SUCCEED!

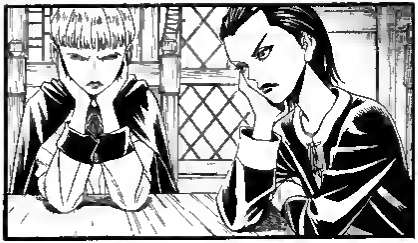

THAT LETTER FROM GOD IS SOLID PROOF OF THAT!
BECAUSE THEY'RE CHILDREN, THEY JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WE'RE IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOW
HEH HEH
THIS IS A LITTLE EMBARRASSING
GOD HAS CHOSEN CHILDREN TO FULFILL THE TASK!
THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!

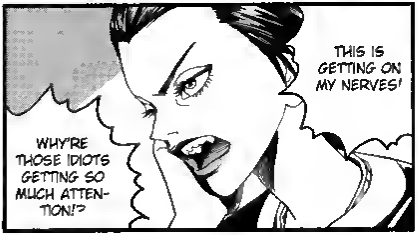

WHISPER-WHISPER
AH, GOOD IDEA.
YES! I WON'T HAVE TO WORK ANYMORE!
ALRIGHT!
IT'S BEST TO ACT QUICKLY!
LET'S GET GOING A WEEK FROM NOW!

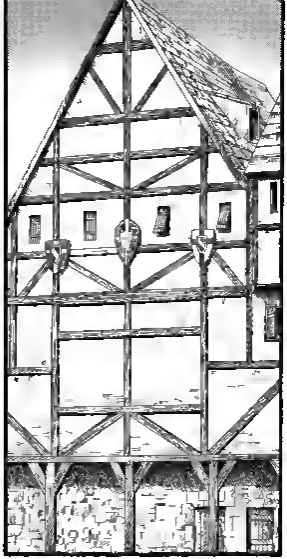

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE NEEDS 12 APOSTLES TO PROTECT ÉTIENNE!
BUT THEY HAVE TO BE A BOY FROM THE AGES OF 8 TO 14!
SO WE NEED 6 MORE PEOPLE!

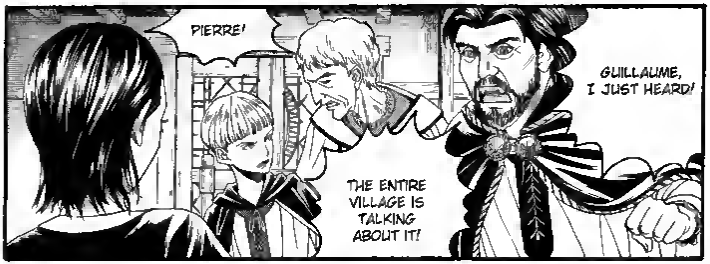

Guillaume
Pierre
ワーワー

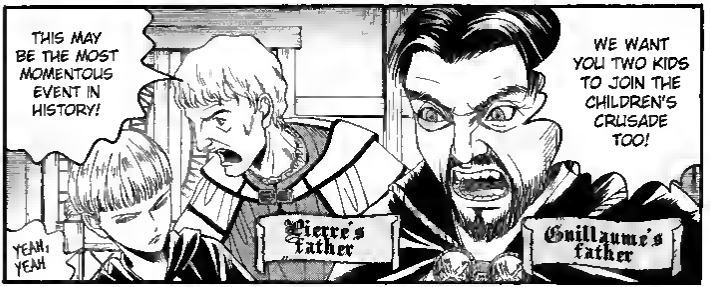
12 APOSTLES? THAT'S GOOD!
IT'S JUST LIKE OUR REAL LORD!



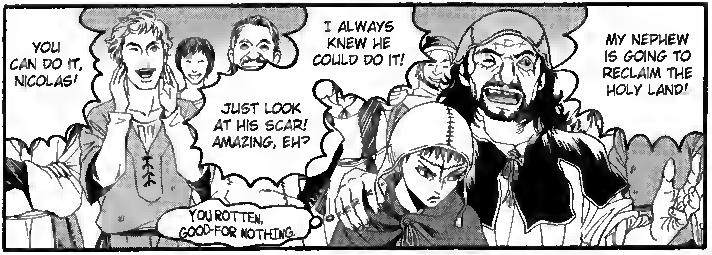

THIS IS GETTING ON MY NERVES!
WHY'RE THOSE IDIOTS GETTING SO MUCH ATTENTION!?

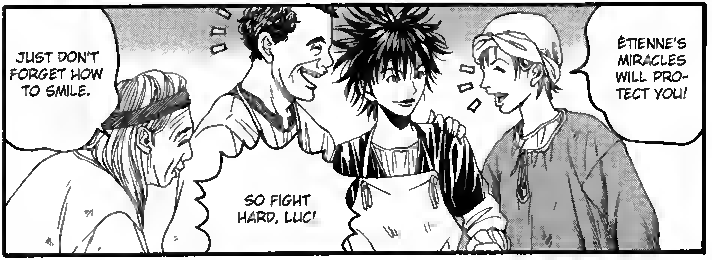


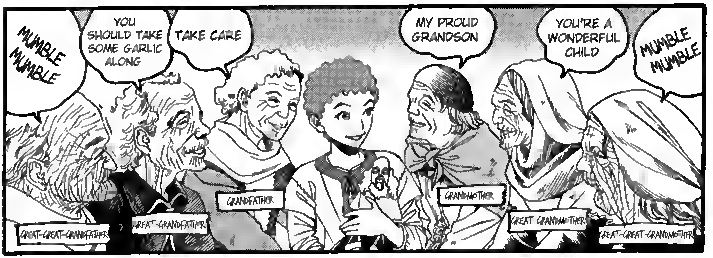

PIERRE!
GUILLAUME, I JUST HEARD!
THE ENTIRE VILLAGE IS TALKING ABOUT IT!

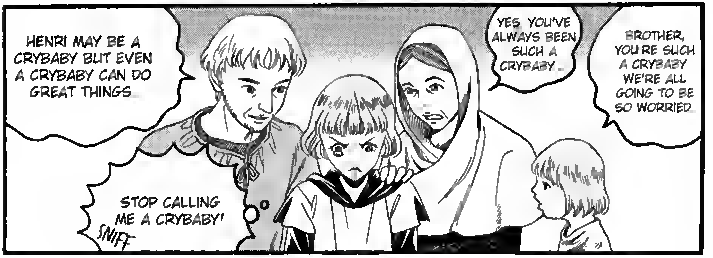

THIS MAY BE THE MOST MOMENTOUS EVENT IN HISTORY!
YEAH, YEAH
Pierre's father
WE WANT YOU TWO KIDS TO JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE TOO!
Guillaume's father

BUT I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO BOW DOWN TO THOSE BRATS...
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LET THAT PIG FARMER'S NEPHEW, NICOLAS, AND LEATHERMAKER'S SON, LUC, TAKE ALL THE GLORY!?
YOU DON'T NEED TO BOW DOWN TO ANYONE!
THOSE KIDS ARE POOR, SO THEY'LL NEED MONEY!
ARE YOU TRYING TO DISHONOUR BOTH YOU AND I, AS THE LORD OF THE MANOR!?
NICOLAS'LL PROBABLY TREAT US LIKE IDIOTS IF THAT WERE THE CASE...
YEAH...
BUT JOINING JUST BECAUSE WE'RE RICH IS KIND OF LAME...
...

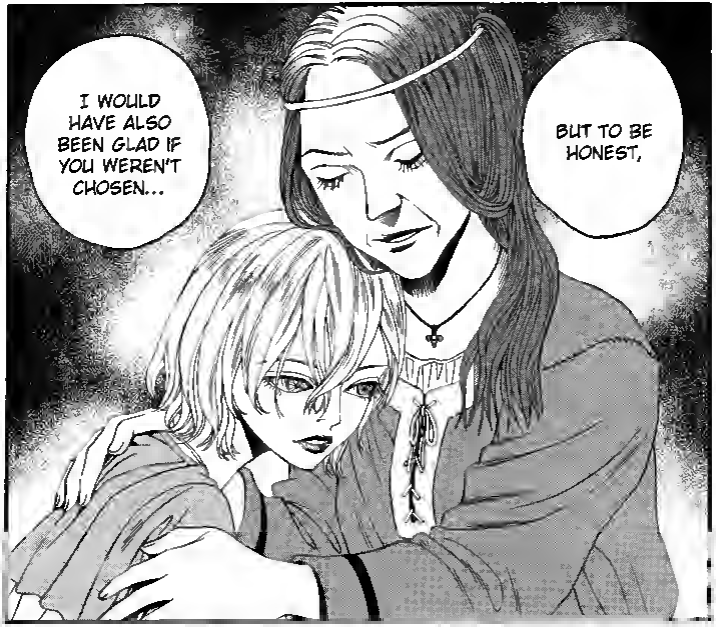

YOU CAN DO IT, NICOLAS!
I ALWAYS KNEW HE COULD DO IT!
MY NEPHEW IS GOING TO RECLAIM THE HOLY LAND!
JUST LOOK AT HIS SCAR! AMAZING, EH?
YOU ROTTEN, GOOD-FOR NOTHING...

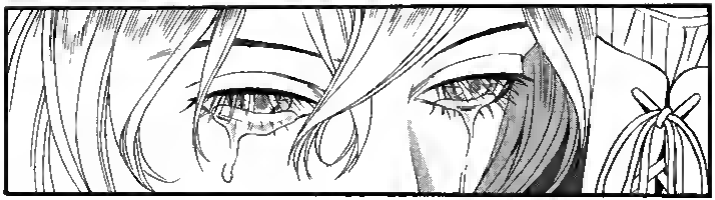

JUST DON'T FORGET HOW TO SMILE.
ÉTIENNE'S MIRACLES WILL PROTECT YOU!
SO FIGHT HARD, LUC!

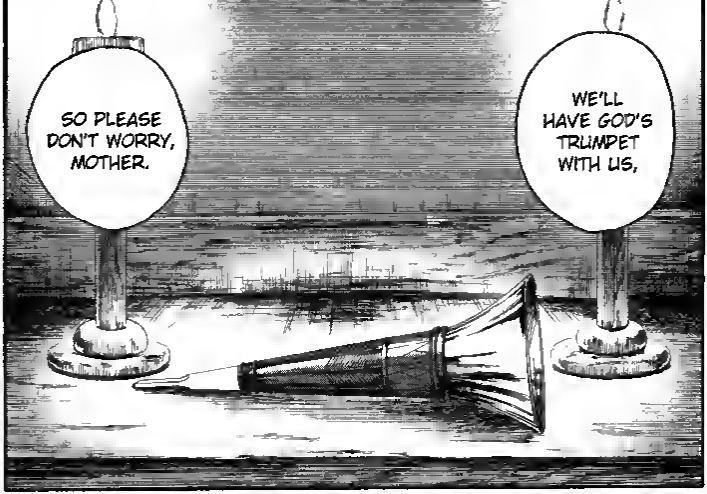

MUMBLE MUMBLE
YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME GARLIC ALONG
TAKE CARE
MY PROUD GRANDSON
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL CHILD
MUMBLE MUMBLE
GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER
GREAT-GRANDFATHER
GRANDFATHER
GRANDMOTHER
GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER


HENRI MAY BE A CRYBABY BUT EVEN A CRYBABY CAN DO GREAT THINGS
YES, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A CRYBABY.
BROTHER, YOU'RE SUCH A CRYBABY WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE SO WORRIED
STOP CALLING ME A CRYBABY!
SNIFF

MOTHER IS SO PROUD OF YOU
TO THINK THAT MY VERY OWN SON WAS CHOSEN BY GOD!!
ÉTIENNE.


I WOULD HAVE ALSO BEEN GLAD IF YOU WEREN'T CHOSEN...
BUT TO BE HONEST,




SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY, MOTHER.
WE'LL HAVE GOD'S TRUMPET WITH US,

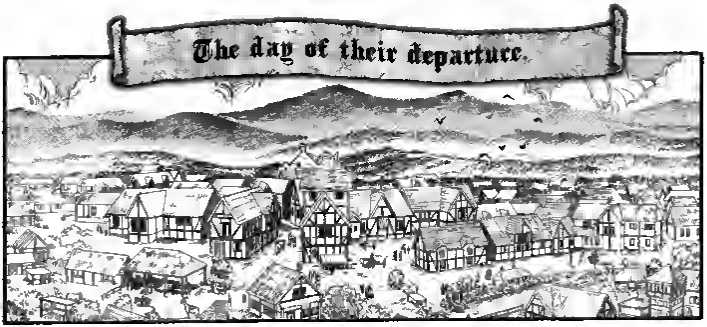
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE SHEEP UNTIL THEN.
WE'LL BE BACK SOON.
Back in the days when maps weren't prevalent, the children had not an inkling of exactly how far the journey would be from Northern France to Jerusalem.

YEAH!
DIE!
YOU BANDIT SCUM!
ドス
ゴ
ドス
ゴ
AAH!!
TAKE THIS!
ボス
ゴ
ドス
PATHETIC!
JUST WHO'D COME TO SAVE YOU!?
HA HA
DON'T THINK WE'LL FORGIVE YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A KID!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE OUT HERE AS AN EXAMPLE TO WHAT HAPPENS TO BANDITS!

ガァァァァァ
EAT.

I DON'T CARE IF I DIE HERE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
EVEN IF YOU DIE, YOU WON'T BE ANY BETTER OFF.
GO AWAY, YOU DAMN HYPOCRITE!
SHUT UP! YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT ME!

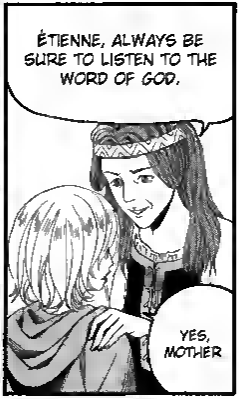
HAH
BEING NICE TO HIM NOW IS JUST CRUEL, ÉTIENNE.
WE'RE GOING TO BE LEAVING SOON.
ｷｬｱｱｱｱｱ


The day of their departure.

DON'T FORGET HOW TO MAKE A SMILE, LUC!
HENRI, TRY NOT TO CRY SO MUCH.
BRING BACK LOTS OF TREASURES, NICOLAS!
MARC, TAKE SOME GARLIC
CHRISTIAN, BRING BACK A PIPE FROM THE ORIENT

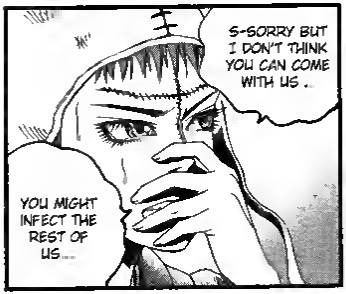
ring
ring
ring

WELL, WE MAY ONLY HAVE 6 PEOPLE SO FAR BUT LET'S GET GOING!


ÉTIENNE, ALWAYS BE SURE TO LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD.
YES, MOTHER

*ALSO KNOWN AS HANSEN'S DISEASE. THOUGH TREATABLE NOW, LONG AGO IT WAS HIGHLY FEARED AND BELIEVED TO SPREAD BY AIR OR CLOSE CONTACT. AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS HAD TO MAKE NOISE TO LET OTHERS KNOW THAT HE OR SHE WAS APPROACHING.

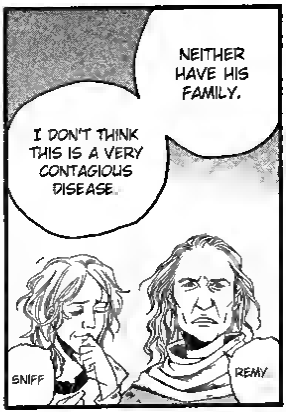
IF I GO TO JERUSALEM, I CAN GET MY WISH GRANTED, RIGHT...?
ÉTIENNE...

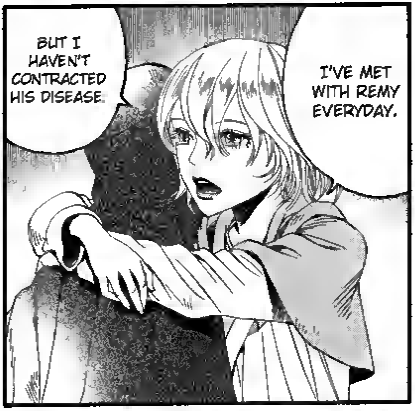

S-SORRY BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN COME WITH US.
YOU MIGHT INFECT THE REST OF US...

I WANT TO BECOME CURED OF MY DISEASE...
REMY...

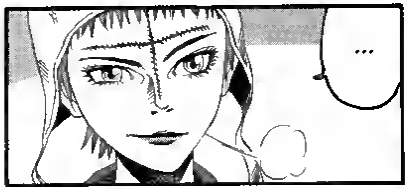
すっ

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND!?
ÉTIENNE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
KYAAAAAAH!!

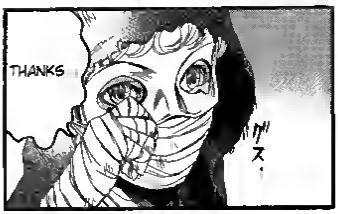

NEITHER HAVE HIS FAMILY.
I DON'T THINK THIS IS A VERY CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.
SNIFF
REMY

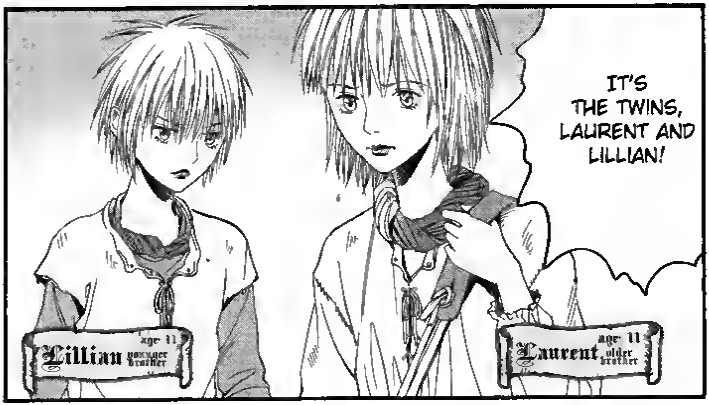

BUT I HAVEN'T CONTRACTED HIS DISEASE.
I'VE MET WITH REMY EVERYDAY.

sniff...
WOULDN'T YOU ALL LIKE TO SEE HIS SMILE ONCE MORE?


...

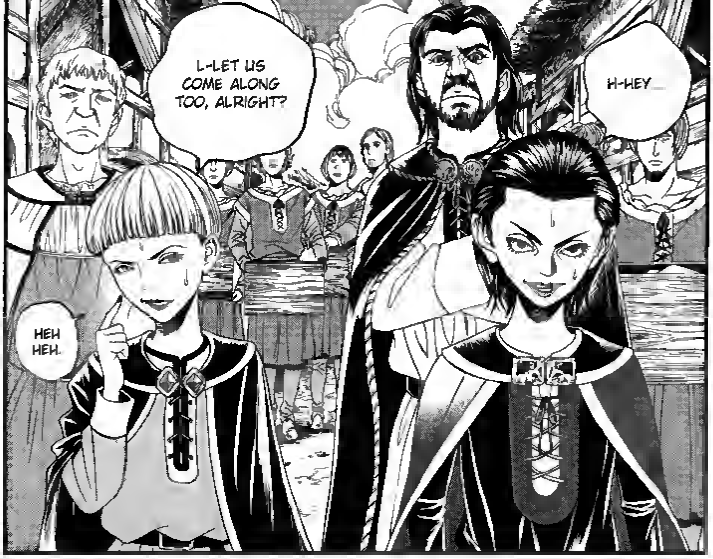
DON'T YOU ALL REMEMBER?
HOW REMY USED TO BE THE MOST ADORABLE LITTLE BOY IN OUR VILLAGE?

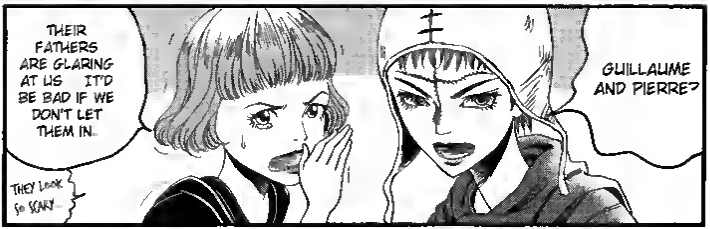




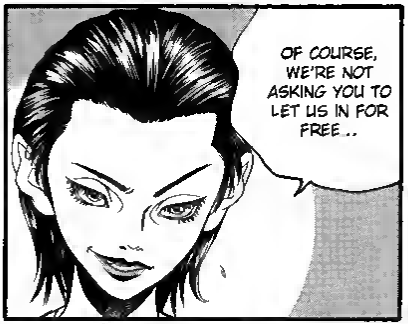
*BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES, HAVING TWINS MEANT THAT THE WOMAN MUST HAVE SLEPT WITH TWO DIFFERENT MEN.

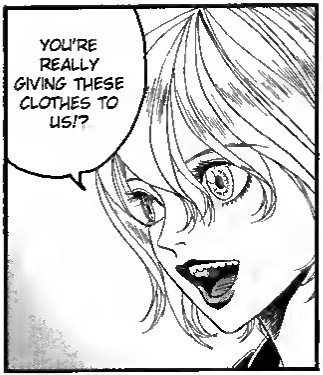
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO GO TO JERUSALEM AND HAVE GOD FORGIVE HER!
AND THEN SHE'LL BE ABLE TO REST IN HEAVEN!
OUR MOTHER KILLED HERSELF BECAUSE OF THAT RUMOUR...
AND PEOPLE WHO COMMIT SUICIDE GO TO HELL...
LAURENT, LILLIAN, YOU CAN COME WITH US TOO.
ALRIGHT! WE GOT SOME MORE PEOPLE JUST AS WE'RE ABOUT TO LEAVE!
NOW THERE'S, 6 .. 7... 8 APOSTLES IN TOTAL!


L-LET US COME ALONG TOO, ALRIGHT?
H-HEY...
HEH HEH.


THEIR FATHERS ARE GLARING AT US IT'D BE BAD IF WE DON'T LET THEM IN..
THEY LOOK SO SCARY...
GUILLAUME AND PIERRE?

WE'VE COME PREPARED WITH THE PROPER UNIFORMS AND FLAGS
UNIFORMS?


OF COURSE, WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU TO LET US IN FOR FREE..

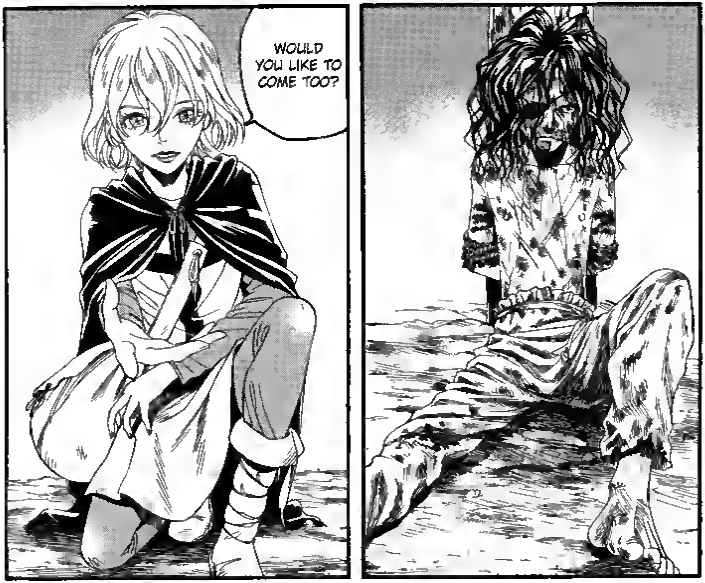

YOU'RE REALLY GIVING THESE CLOTHES TO US!?

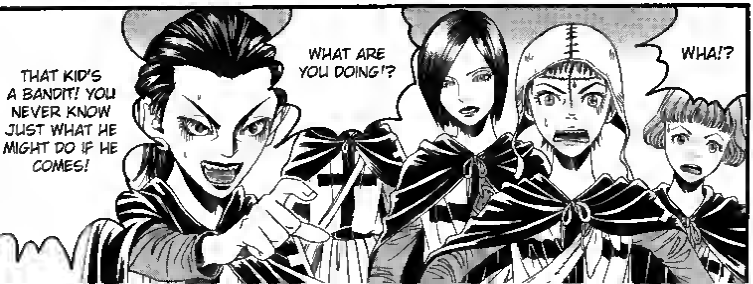
YEAH, SO CAN WE COME ALONG TOO!?

BUT THESE CLOTHES ARE SO COOL..
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THOSE GUYS,
NGHHH
Weak towards appearances.

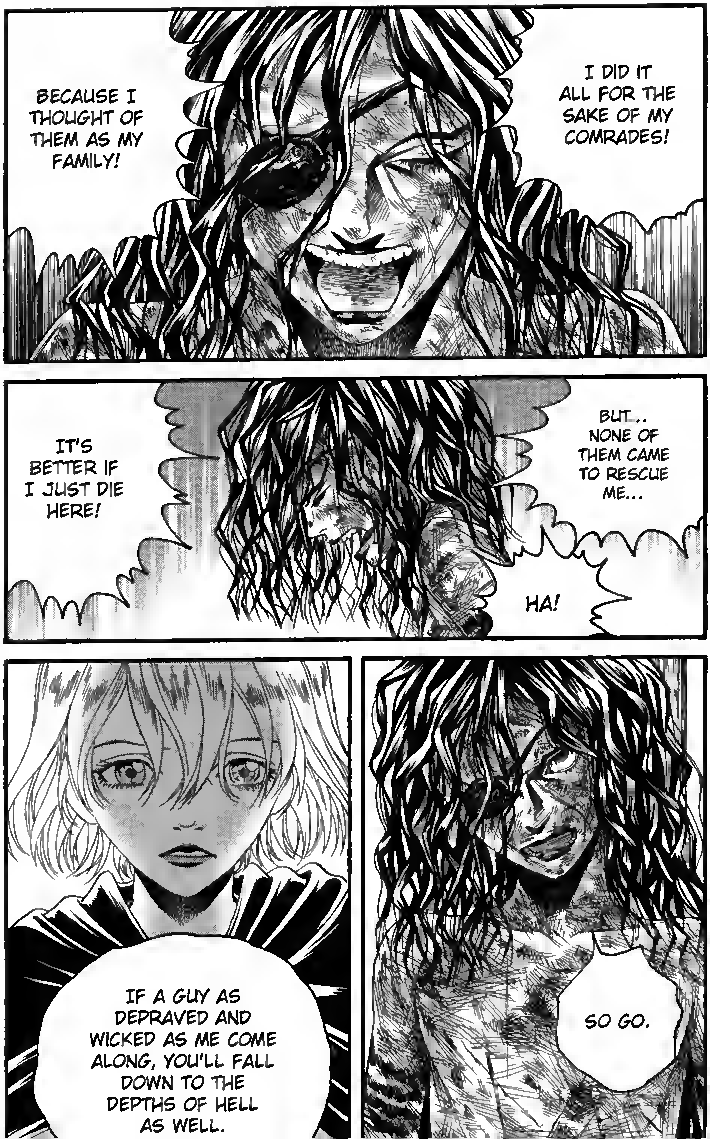
MADE IN FLANDERS?
AHH, THESE HIGH QUALITY FABRICS FEEL SO WARM!
DO I LOOK ALRIGHT?
COOL!
WHAT ABOUT ME, WHAT ABOUT ME?
THIS FEELS GREAT!
WE'RE TWINS, YOU'RE ONLY OLDER THAN ME BY JUST A LITTLE BIT
LILLIAN, YOU'RE SUCH A KID.
T-THIS IS NICE...
IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING...

YOU GOT IT!
FINE, YOU CAN COME ALONG!
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING BAD!
WAIT, NICOLAS!
NOW WE HAVE 10 APOSTLES!
WE CAN FIND THE REST DURING OUR TRAVELS!
ÉTIENNE...?


WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TOO?


THAT KID'S A BANDIT! YOU NEVER KNOW JUST WHAT HE MIGHT DO IF HE COMES!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
WHA!?

DON'T MAKE A FOOL OF ME...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG AND HELP ME?
I'M GOING TO DIE HERE SO JUST LEAVE ME BE!
I REFUSE TO BE ONE OF YOUR COMRADES!
KILLING IS MY JOB!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE I'VE KILLED!?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THAT YOU CAN EVEN THINK OF INVITING ME!
I'VE EVEN KILLED MONKS TO STEAL MONEY!
I'VE MERCILESSLY SLAUGHTERED WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY WHO WERE CRYING AND BEGGING FOR THEIR LIVES!


BECAUSE I THOUGHT OF THEM AS MY FAMILY!
I DID IT ALL FOR THE SAKE OF MY COMRADES!
IT'S BETTER IF I JUST DIE HERE!
BUT... NONE OF THEM CAME TO RESCUE ME...
HA!
IF A GUY AS DEPRAVED AND WICKED AS ME COME ALONG, YOU'LL FALL DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL AS WELL.
SO GO.

IF YOU COME TO JERUSALEM, GOD WILL FORGIVE ALL YOUR PAST SINS.
YOU'RE NOT DEPRAVED NOR WICKED...
YOU ONLY DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO TO SURVIVE...

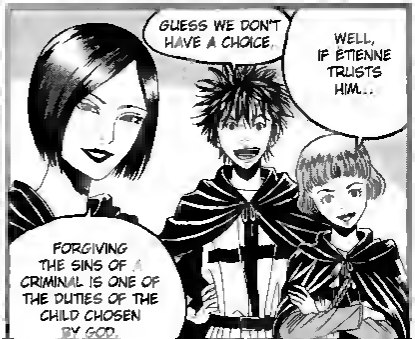
WH...!
WHY!!!
WE'LL BE YOUR NEW FAMILY FROM TODAY...

WHY...
ARE YOU LIKE THIS...!?

WELL, THAT'S HOW ÉTIENNE FEELS!
THE REST OF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, RIGHT?

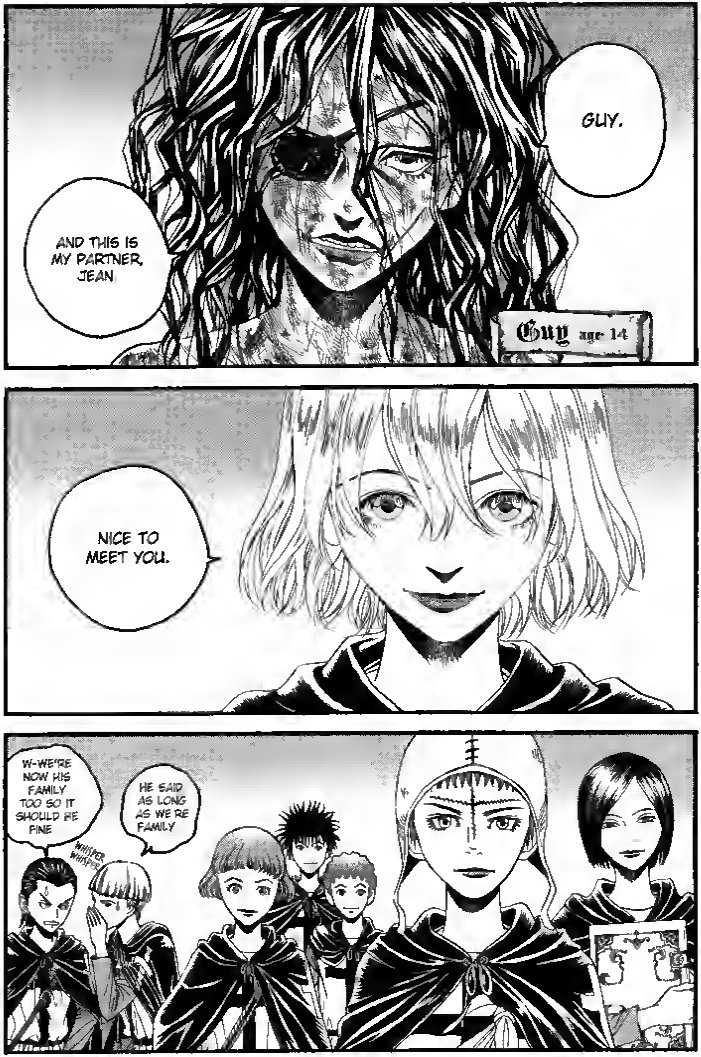
THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A GOOD THING FOR US...
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE ONE KID EXPERIENCED WITH TRAVELLING AROUND

N-NOT GOOD...
YEAH, WE SERIOUSLY BEAT UP THAT KID PRETTY BADLY...

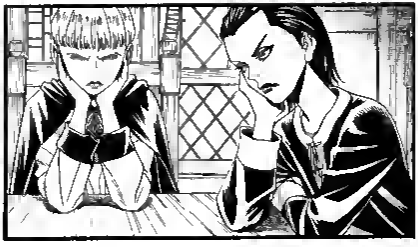

GUESS WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
WELL, IF ÉTIENNE TRUSTS HIM...
FORGIVING THE SINS OF A CRIMINAL IS ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE CHILD CHOSEN BY GOD.

YOU'RE TOO DAMN NICE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
YOU'RE ALL IDIOTS!
HE'S CALLING HIS BANDIT FRIENDS!
!
LOOK!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE HOLY LAND OR WHAT-EVER.
SNORT
BUT AS LONG AS WE'RE FAMILY, I'LL RISK MY LIFE!


GUY.
AND THIS IS MY PARTNER, JEAN.
Guy age 14
NICE TO MEET YOU.
W-WE'RE NOW HIS FAMILY TOO SO IT SHOULD BE FINE
HE SAID AS LONG AS WE'RE FAMILY
WHISPER WHISPER

And so, Étienne and the 11 other children departed on their journey.
Their eyes were beaming with hope.



La Croisade des Innocents

Usamaru Furuya

translation: hox
scans: st. francis
editing: king baldwin IV

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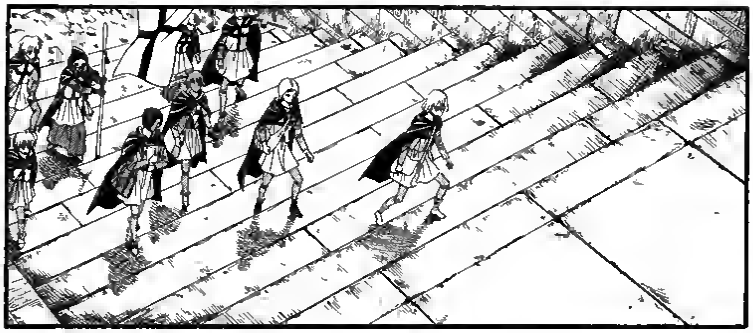
isbn-10: 4778320689
isbn-13: 978-4778320683

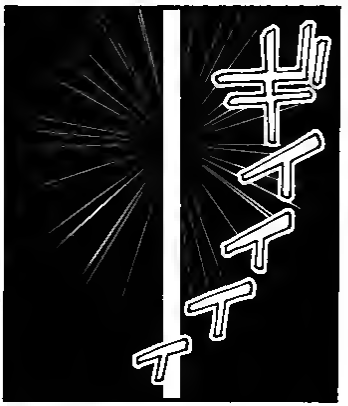
Spring of the year 1212. A certain group of children depart from a rural village in France.
Despite setting out aimlessly on their journey, the adults of the village entrust their hopes on the success of these twelve boys.

Chapter 4: The Twelfth Apostle

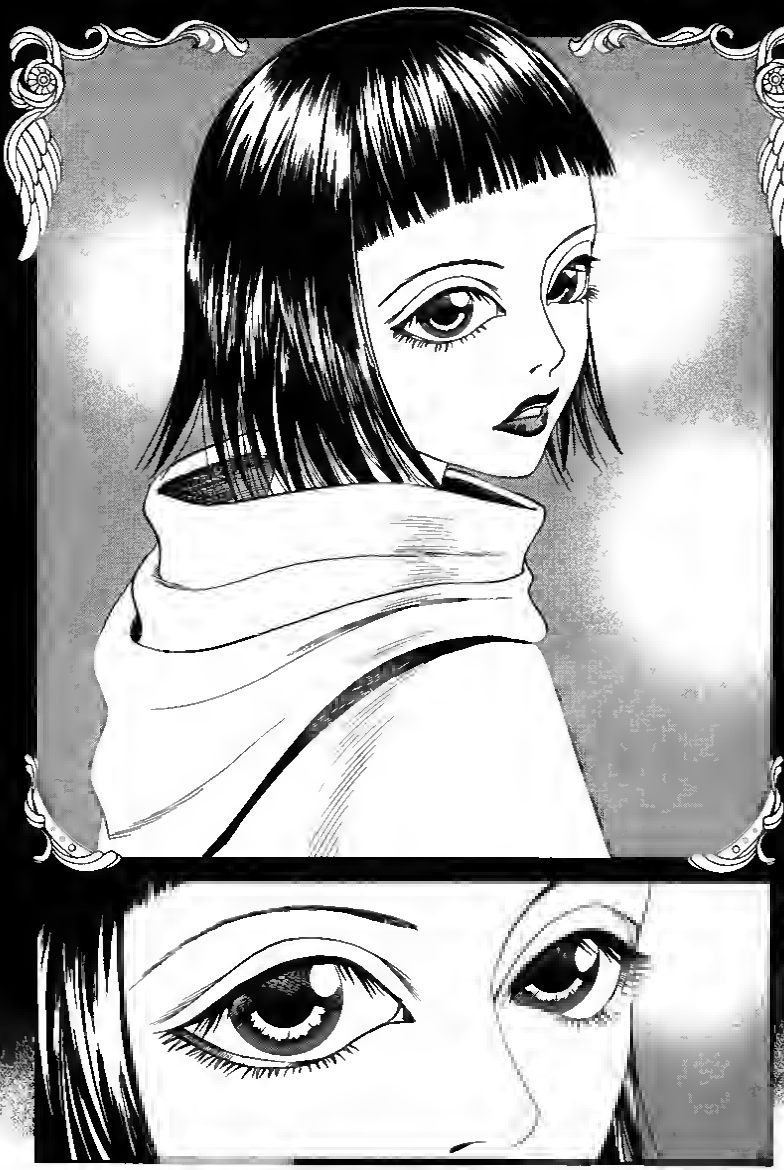
After steady traveling, the children visited the first of many churches on their arduous quest.
YES.
HERE'S OUR FIRST IMPORTANT STOP, ÉTIENNE
KAULP
THIS FLAG MAY HELP GRANT US RECOGNITION OF THE CHURCH THAT BEING SAID, IT SEEMS RATHER EXTRAVAGANT, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
OF COURSE.

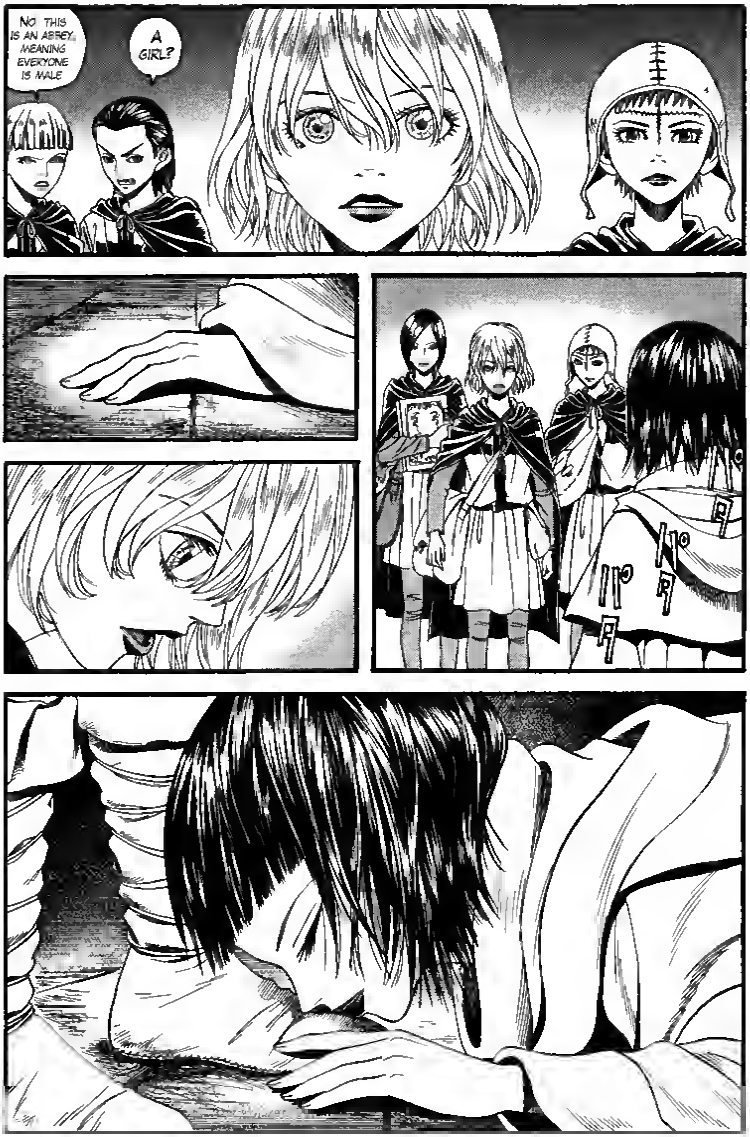


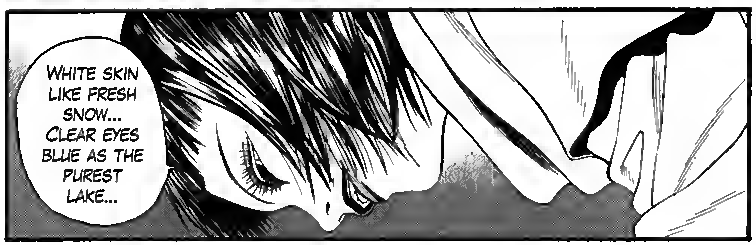
SING-
ING...

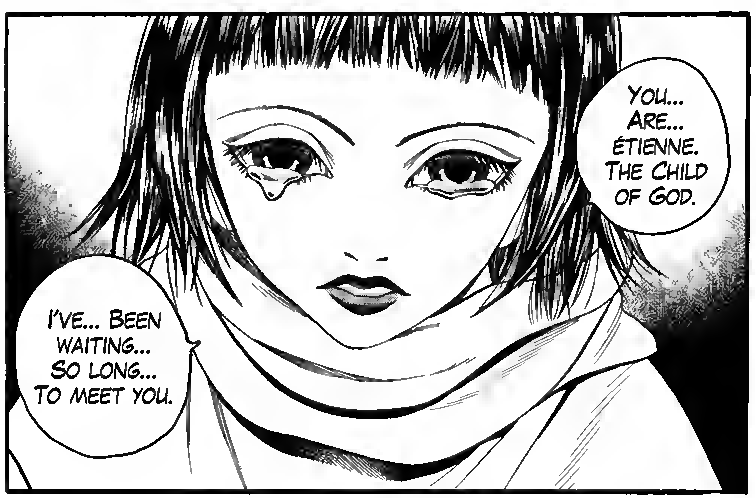

ヤイイイイ

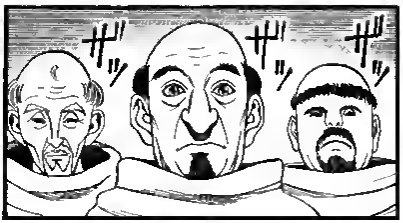
WHAT A PRETTY VOICE...
AN ANGEL STANDS BEFORE US.

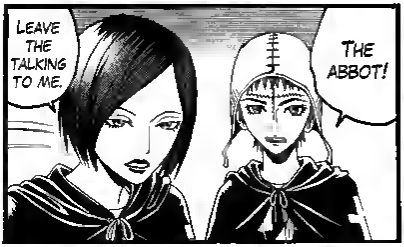



NO. THIS IS AN ARREY, MEANING EVERYONE IS MALE
A GIRL?

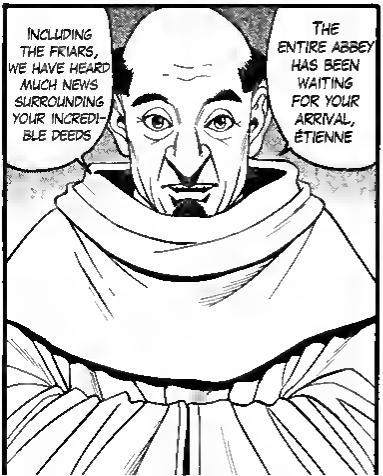

WHITE SKIN LIKE FRESH SNOW... CLEAR EYES BLUE AS THE PUREST LAKE...

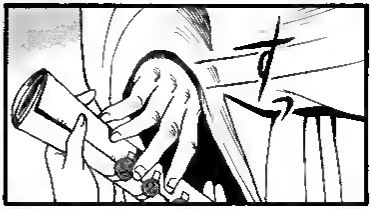

YOU... ARE... ÉTIENNE. THE CHILD OF GOD.
I'VE... BEEN WAITING... SO LONG... TO MEET YOU.

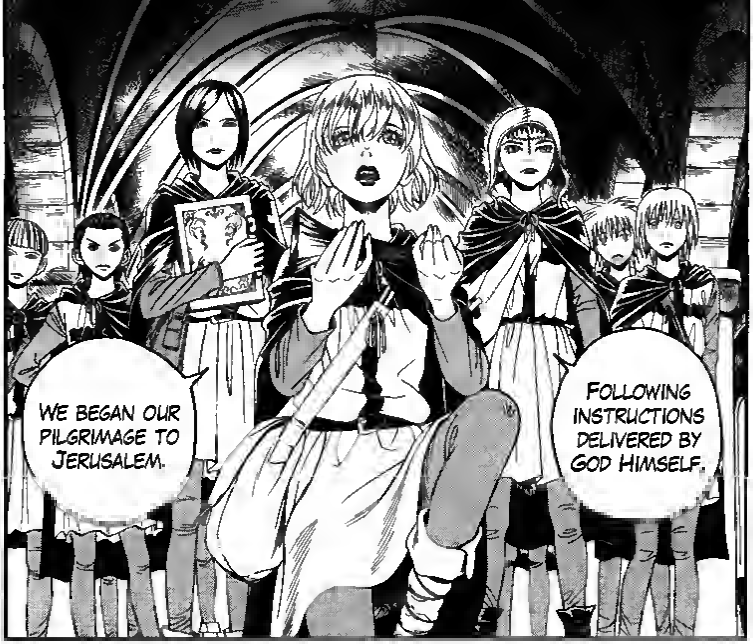


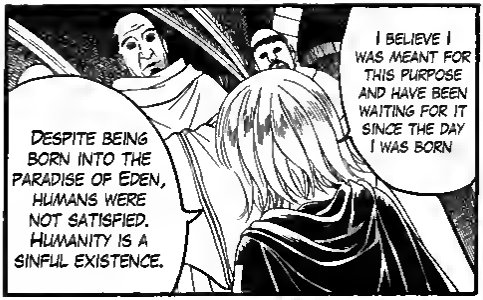

LEAVE THE TALKING TO ME.
THE ABBOT!

I PRESENT TO YOU A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION WRITTEN BY THE TRADESMAN DANIEL WEIL, MY FATHER.

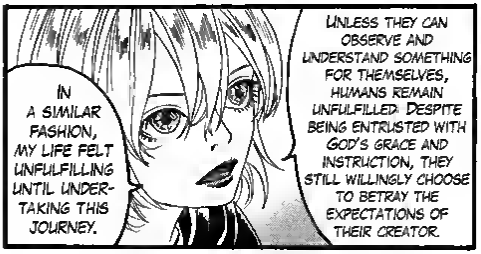

INCLUDING THE FRIARS, WE HAVE HEARD MUCH NEWS SURROUNDING YOUR INCREDIBLE DEEDS
THE ENTIRE ABBEY HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL, ÉTIENNE




We began our pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
Following instructions delivered by God himself.

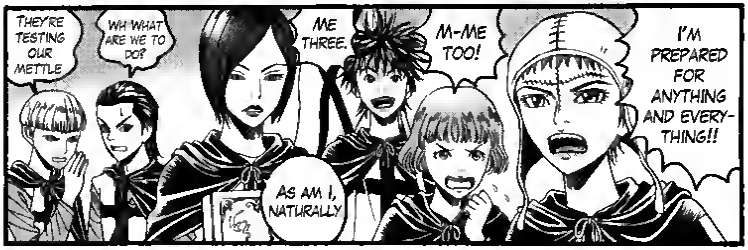

I believe I was meant for this purpose and have been waiting for it since the day I was born
Despite being born into the paradise of Eden, humans were not satisfied. Humanity is a sinful existence.

Please, allow me a single question.
What made you choose to discard the security of your home and undertake this cruel and arduous quest?


Unless they can observe and understand something for themselves, humans remain unfulfilled. Despite being entrusted with God's grace and instruction, they still willingly choose to betray the expectations of their creator.
In a similar fashion, my life felt unfulfilling until undertaking this journey.

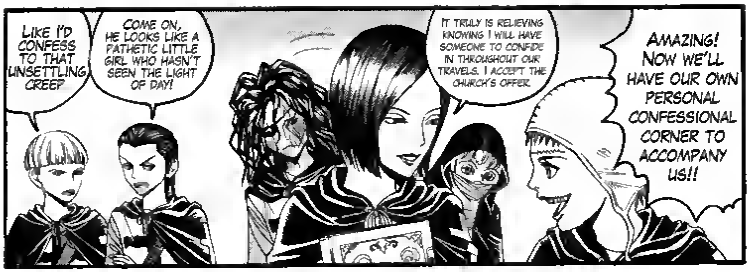
DO YOU ACCEPT THIS UNPREDICTABLE DESTINY WITHOUT ANY HOPE OF RETURN?
THOUGH, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT BY UNDERGOING THIS MISSION LACKING ANY GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS, YOU MAY HAVE DOOMED YOURSELVES TO OBLIVION?
!
WHAT UNRE-STRICTED SEVERITY.
ME EITHER.
WOW. I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT WAY UNTIL NOW
ARE YOU SAYING WE MIGHT NOT COME BACK ALIVE?
BECAUSE I HAVE THE PROTECTION OF GOD WATCHING OVER ME, I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
REGARDLESS, I HAVE ALREADY RESOLVED TO COMPLETE THE LORD'S MISSION.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.

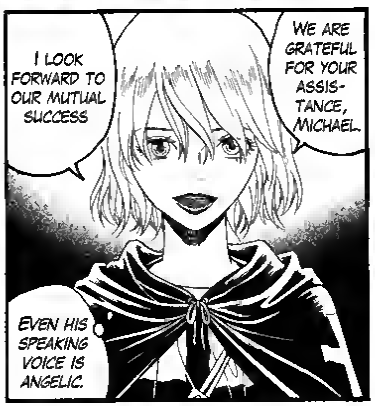
In the event that you find yourself questioning that determination, I want you to return to your poor mother's side. That goes for all of you children.
Very well, your determination is certainly unwavering.

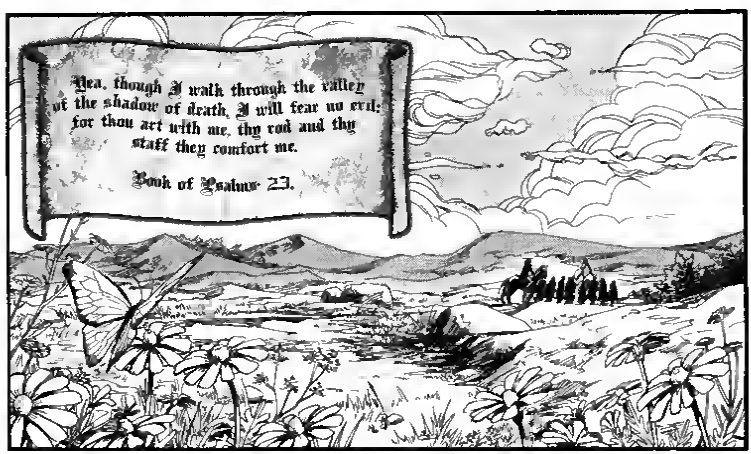

They're testing our mettle
Wh-what are we to do?
Me three.
As am I, naturally
M-me too!
I'm prepared for anything and everything!!

Despite his apparent diminished intelligence, his faith in God and dedication to Christianity is far from lacking.
Perhaps you will feel the need to confess your sins along the journey Although he is still in training, please allow him to ease the burden on your hearts and bodies in any way possible

In the case that you insisted on continuing your crusade, we have selected a neophyte representative of our church to accompany your group of apostles

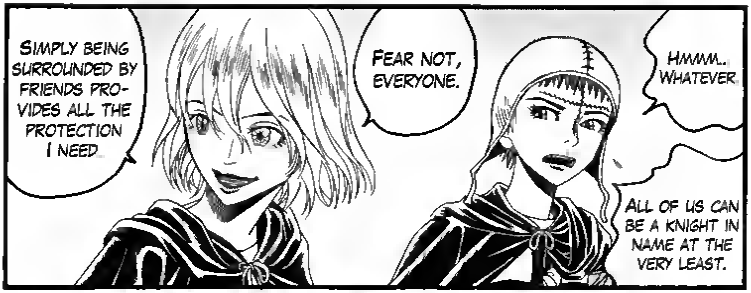

LIKE I'D CONFESS TO THAT UNSETTLING CREEP
COME ON, HE LOOKS LIKE A PATHETIC LITTLE GIRL WHO HASN'T SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY!
IT TRULY IS RELIEVING KNOWING I WILL HAVE SOMEONE TO CONFIDE IN THROUGHOUT OUR TRAVELS. I ACCEPT THE CHURCH'S OFFER.
AMAZING! NOW WE'LL HAVE OUR OWN PERSONAL CONFESSIONAL CORNER TO ACCOMPANY US!!



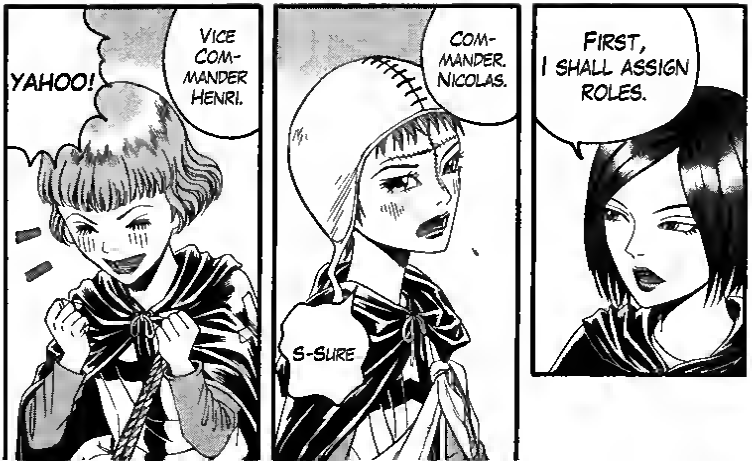

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Book of Psalms 23.

AT THE TIME, *CONFESSIONAL PRIESTS* WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LISTENING TO AND ADVISING PEOPLE OVER THEIR PROBLEMS, SINS, AND EVERYDAY STRUGGLES. FORGIVING THE CONFESSOR FOR THEIR SINS WASN'T THEIR ONLY DUTY, THEY ULTIMATELY ACTED AS A PRIMITIVE VERSION OF THE MODERN-DAY COUNSELOR.

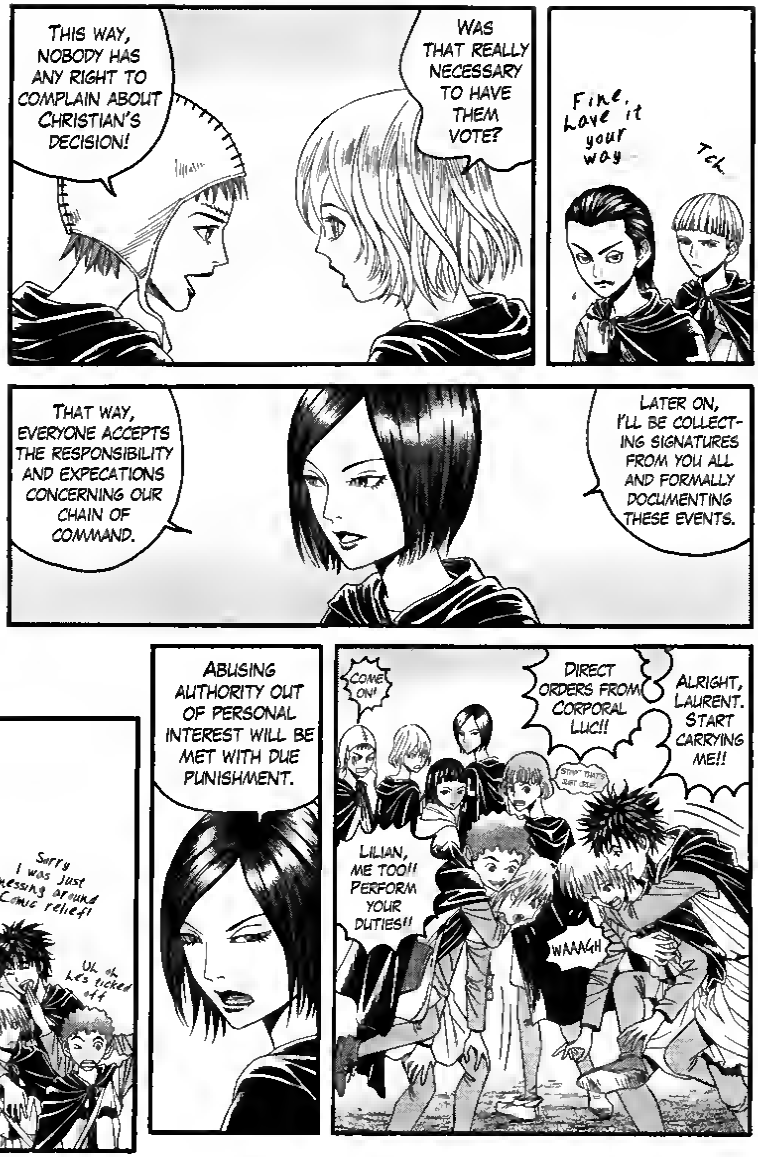
RIGHT!
AND HIS 12 APOSTLES HAVE AT LAST GATHERED!
OUR CORE MEMBER, ÉTIENNE, IS 12 YEARS OLD,
THE YEAR IS 1212.
MAKING THINGS AS DRAMATIC AS POSSIBLE IS A BARE NECESSITY!!
OF COURSE I WAS.
NICOLAS, HAVE YOU BEEN AIMING FOR THIS SYNCHRONICITY THE WHOLE TIME?
INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, JESUS CHRIST LEFT HIS HOME AT THE AGE OF 12 AS WELL.
YOU EXPECT ME TO FIGHT WITH A TEXTBOOK?
UNFORTU-NATELY, I CANNOT ACCEPT KNIGHTHOOD
I DON'T REALLY THINK I'D MAKE A GOOD KNIGHT...
TWELVE NOBLE KNIGHTS IS THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF PEOPLE TO PROTECT ÉTIENNE.

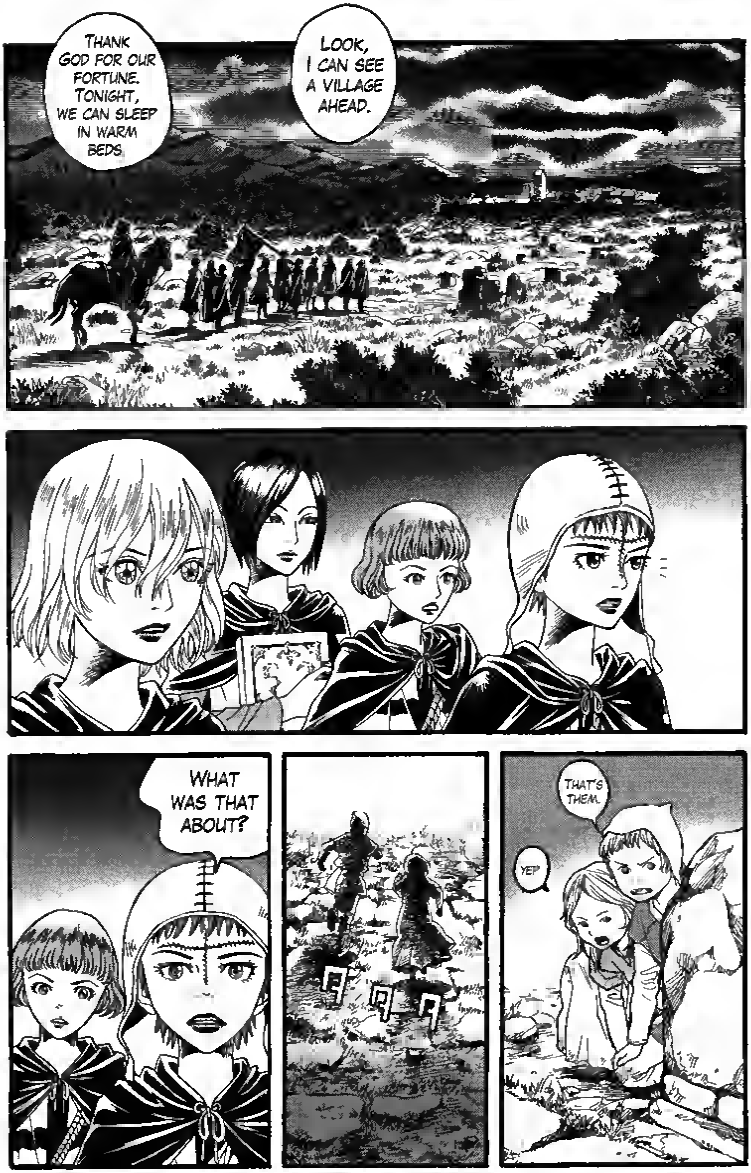

SIMPLY BEING SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS PROVIDES ALL THE PROTECTION I NEED.
FEAR NOT, EVERYONE.
HMMM.. WHATEVER
ALL OF US CAN BE A KNIGHT IN NAME AT THE VERY LEAST.

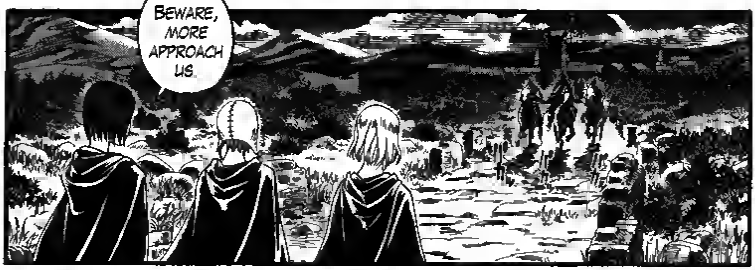
PERHAPS NOW WOULD BE AN IDEAL TIME TO DETERMINE OUR CHAIN OF COMMAND AND RANKINGS.
IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, EFFECTIVE ORDERS WILL KEEP US

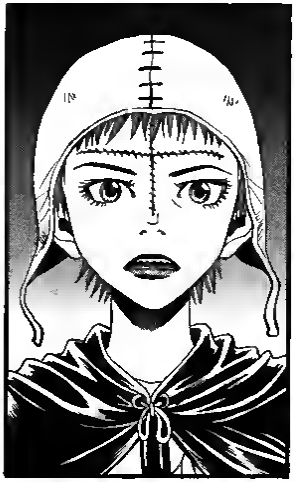

YAHOO!
VICE COMMANDER HENRI.
COMMANDER NICOLAS.
S-SURE
FIRST, I SHALL ASSIGN ROLES.

I, THE EVER-RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIAN, SHALL BE PLACED IN CHARGE OF FINANCIAL CONTROL AND GENERAL AFFAIRS.
MARC. LANCE-CORPORAL
WAIT, ME?
ME!?
NEXT IN LINE, LUC. YOU WILL BE THE CORPORAL.
WHOA, SOUNDS PRETTY COOL.
PERHAPS WHEN YOUR ALLEGIANCE REACHES THEIR HEIGHT, YOU SHALL BE BESTOWED WITH AN HONORABLE PURPOSE.
THESE ARE SIMPLY THE MEMBERS THAT ORIGINALLY PLEDGED THEIR LOYALTY AND DEDICATION TO ETIENNE
ISN'T THERE EVEN A SINGLE MILITARY TITLE LEFT FOR ME!?
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING MOST OF US!?
SHOW OF HANDS FOR ALL THAT APPROVE!!
MEEE!
MEMEME!
Nicolas was particularly enthusiastic about his appointment as Commander.


THIS WAY, NOBODY HAS ANY RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT CHRISTIAN'S DECISION!
WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY TO HAVE THEM VOTE?
Fine, Have it your way
Tch.
THAT WAY, EVERYONE ACCEPTS THE RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPECATIONS CONCERNING OUR CHAIN OF COMMAND.
LATER ON, I'LL BE COLLECTING SIGNATURES FROM YOU ALL AND FORMALLY DOCUMENTING THESE EVENTS.
ABUSING AUTHORITY OUT OF PERSONAL INTEREST WILL BE MET WITH DUE PUNISHMENT.
COME ON!
DIRECT ORDERS FROM CORPORAL LUC!!
ALRIGHT, LAURENT. START CARRYING ME!!
LILIAN, ME TOO!! PERFORM YOUR DUTIES!!
WAAAGH
Sorry I was just messing around Comic relief!
Uh, oh he's ticked off


THANK GOD FOR OUR FORTUNE. TONIGHT, WE CAN SLEEP IN WARM BEDS.
LOOK, I CAN SEE A VILLAGE AHEAD.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
THAT'S THEM.
YE!?


BEWARE, MORE APPROACH US.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR!!
K...
ISN'T THIS INCREDIBLE, ÉTIENNE!?
EVEN THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR KNOW ABOUT OUR PURPOSE!!
NICOLAS, DO NOT HASTILY BECOME OVERJOYED.
HM?
CHILD OF GOD, ÉTIENNE AND THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADERS I PRESUME?

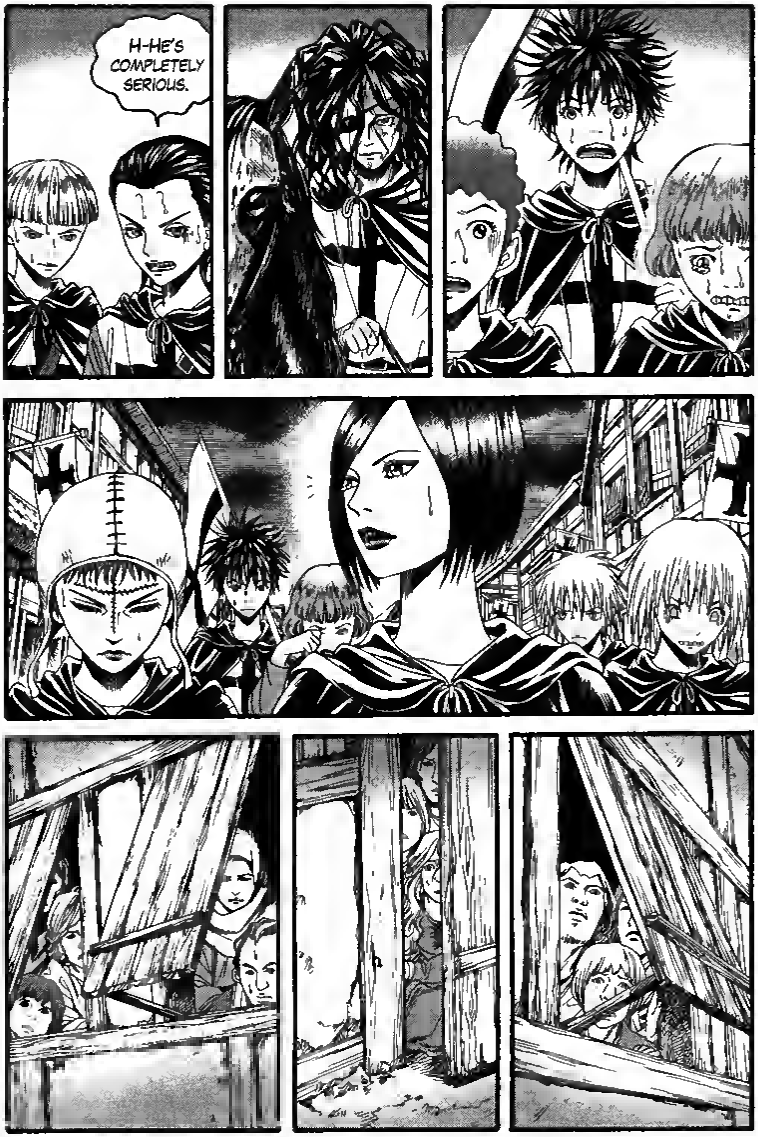
ALL THE WHILE BEING NARY BUT MILKDRINKERS! HOW DARE YOU RIDICULE OUR DIVINE MISSION TO RECLAIM THE HOLY LAND!!
IMPUDENT CHILDREN! YOU FOOLISHLY TAKE THE NAME OF CRUSADERS
WHAT BLATANT DISRESPECT YOU BASTARDS POSSESS!!
GOING SO FAR AS TO ADORN YOURSELVES IN OUR RIGHTEOUS GARB WITHOUT PERMISSION AND DISPLAY OUR EMBLEM ON THAT ABOMINABLE FLAG!

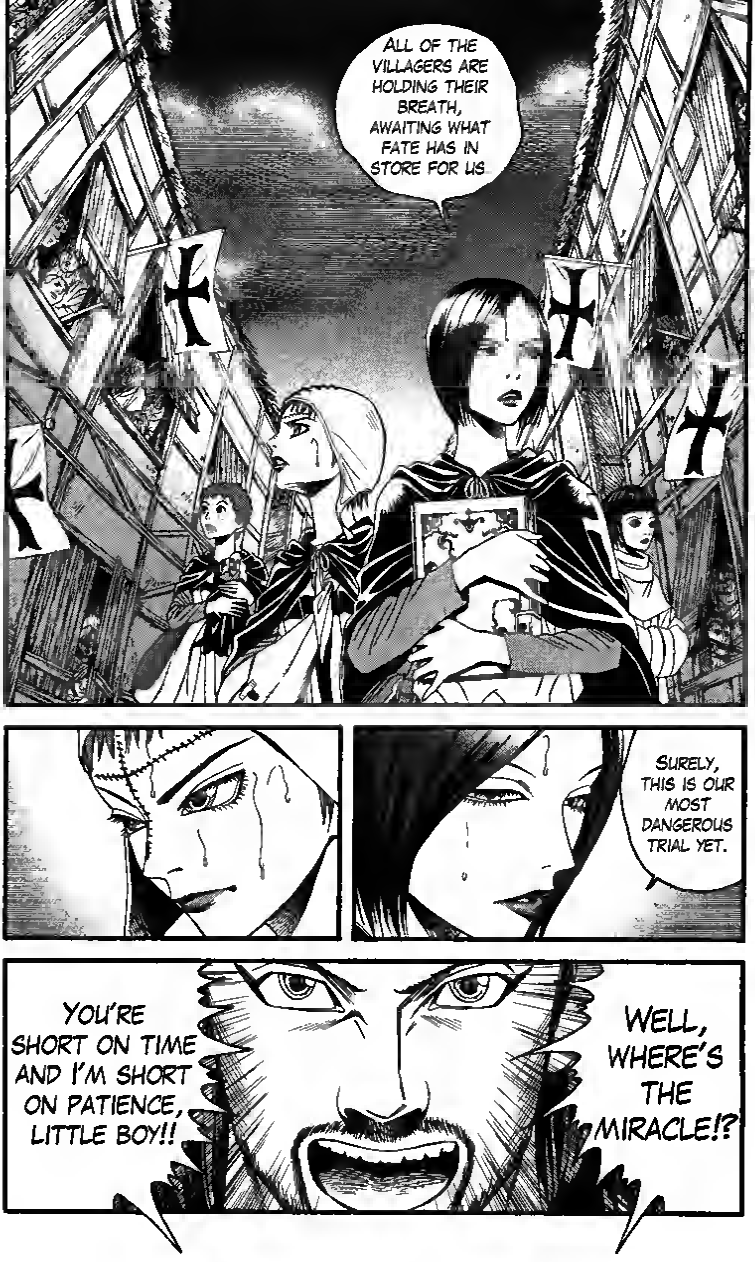
WHAT IMPERTI-NENCE!
I ASSURE YOU, SIR, OUR MISSION HAS BEEN DIRECTLY ENTRUSTED TO US BY GOD HIMSELF. THE LORD DESIRES OUR PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND
PLEASE BELIEVE MY WORDS... THE CHURCH ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CHILDREN... AS CRUSADERS.
I AM... A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHURCH... THE APOSTLE MICHAEL.
FOLLOW ME!!
HMPH
?

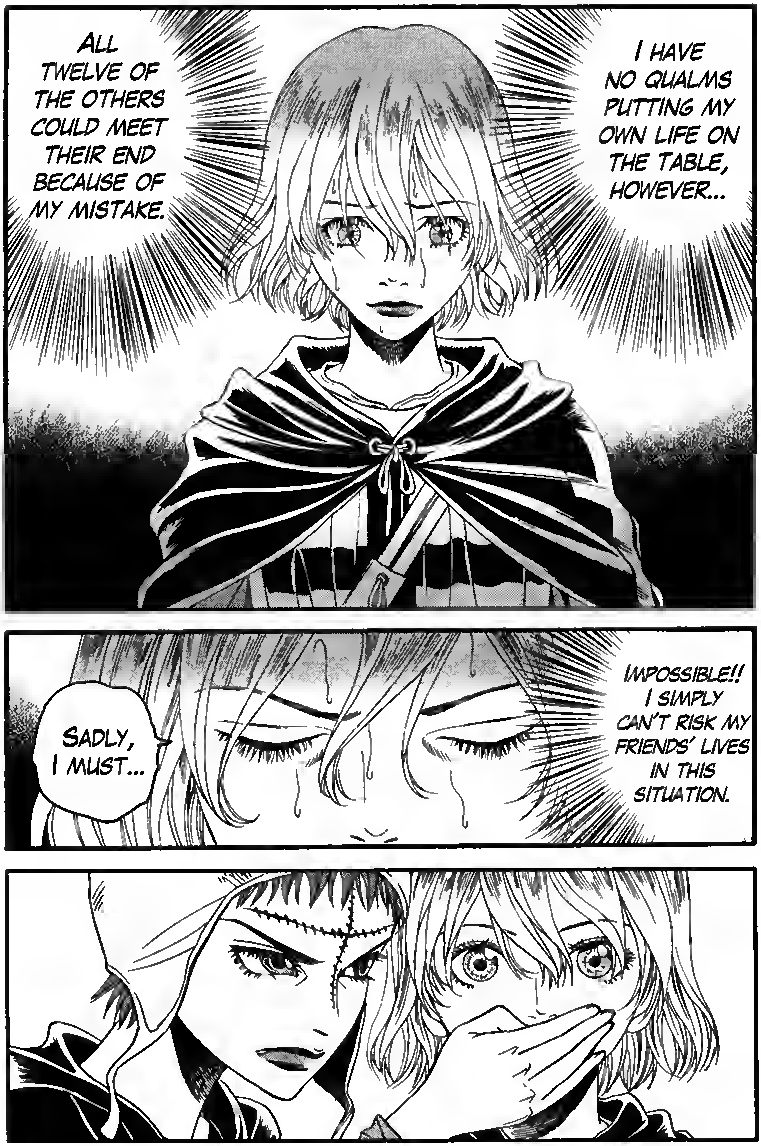
I HAVE YET TO WITNESS THE PRESENCE OF A SINGLE CITIZEN...
INDEED, SOMETHING SEEMS VERY WRONG...
THIS ENTIRE VILLAGE IS LIKE ONE HUGE TEMPLAR GARRISON.

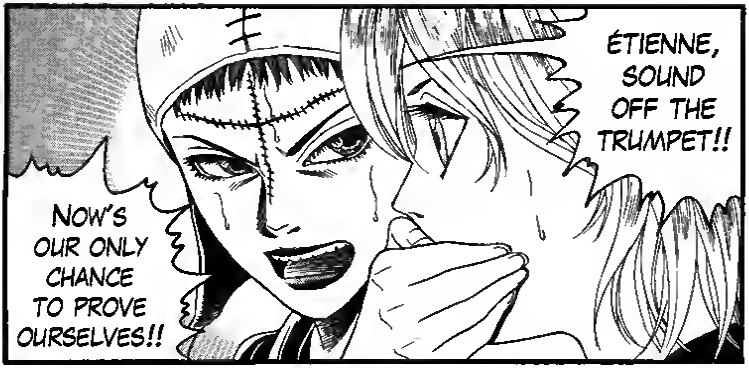
OVER HERE, COME OUT IMMEDIATELY!!
THIS ELDERLY WOMAN HAS LOST HER SENSE OF SIGHT.
PERHAPS IF YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS DIVINE FEAT, WE SHALL RECOGNIZE YOUR PURPOSE.
APPARENTLY, YOU ARE ABLE TO GRANT MIRACLES UPON OTHERS, CHILD.
IF THAT IS INDEED THE TRUTH, RELIEVE THIS WOMAN OF HER SUFFERING!!

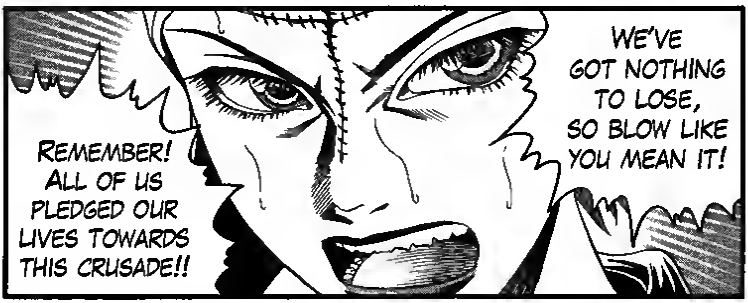
HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT THAT YOU ARE DEEMED FALSE.
YOU WILL BE LABLED A PAGAN AND A FALSE PROPHET. AS PER GOD'S DIVINE WILL...
EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU WILL BE KILLED IN THE HOLY NAME OF GOD, OUR CREATOR!

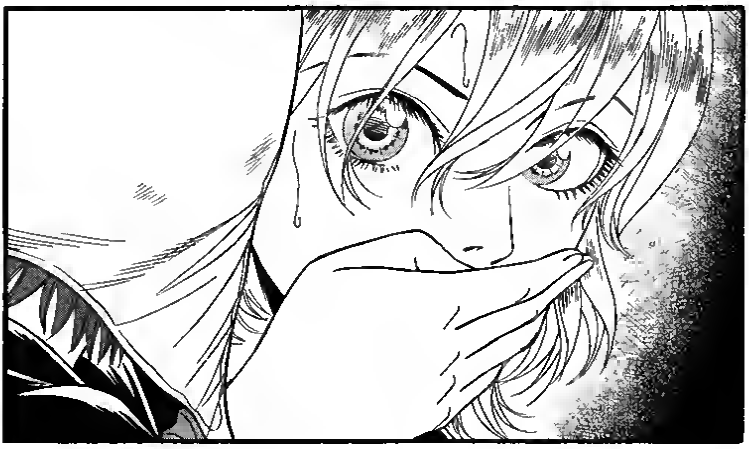

H-HE'S COMPLETELY SERIOUS.


ALL OF THE VILLAGERS ARE HOLDING THEIR BREATH, AWAITING WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE FOR US
SURELY, THIS IS OUR MOST DANGEROUS TRIAL YET.
YOU'RE SHORT ON TIME AND I'M SHORT ON PATIENCE, LITTLE BOY!!
WELL, WHERE'S THE MIRACLE!?


ALL TWELVE OF THE OTHERS COULD MEET THEIR END BECAUSE OF MY MISTAKE.
I HAVE NO QUALMS PUTTING MY OWN LIFE ON THE TABLE, HOWEVER...
SADLY, I MUST...
IMPOSSIBLE!! I SIMPLY CAN'T RISK MY FRIENDS' LIVES IN THIS SITUATION.


ÉTIENNE, SOUND OFF THE TRUMPET!!
NOW'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO PROVE OURSELVES!!


WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE, SO BLOW LIKE YOU MEAN IT!
REMEMBER! ALL OF US PLEDGED OUR LIVES TOWARDS THIS CRUSADE!!



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translation: pope leo III
editing: king baldwin IV

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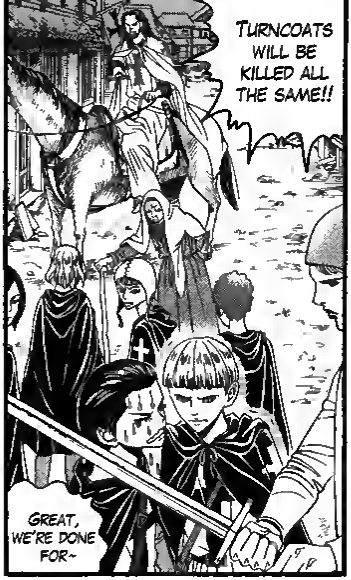
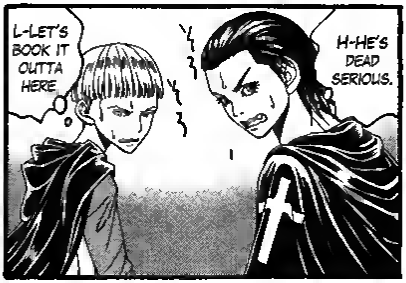
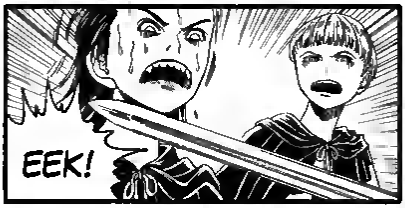
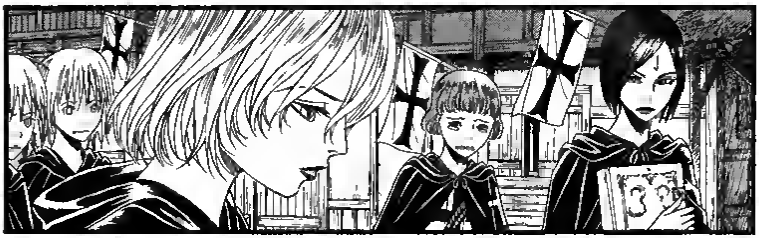
Chapter 5:
Knighthood

HOWEVER, IF YOUR ALLEGED POWER OF MIRACLES IS NOTHING MORE THAN HOAX, YOUR ENTIRE BAND OF FOLLOWERS SHALL BE DISPOSED OF, INCLUDING YOURSELF!!
PROVE YOUR LEGITIMACY, BOY! RESTORE VISION TO THIS SUFFERING SENIOR!!


TURNCOATS WILL BE KILLED ALL THE SAME!!
GREAT, WE'RE DONE FOR~


L-LET'S BOOK IT OUTTA HERE
H-HE'S DEAD SERIOUS.


EEK!



JUST AS I THOUGHT. YET ANOTHER FALSE PROPHET!!
HAH!

AS LONG AS I HAVE THE LORD'S GUIDANCE, THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR
BE IT FAILURE OR CALAMITY...

GOD ALMIGHTY,
GRANT LIGHT TO ONE LOST IN DARKNESS.

ARE YOU ONE OF THE ANGELS?
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL FACE YOU HAVE, LAD.

SHE'S CURED!!
DEAR GOD, THE CRONE CAN SEE!!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
THE CHILD OF MIRACLES HAS COME!!
A GENUINE CHILD WITH THE GIFT OF MIRACLES!!
TH-THANK THE LORD...
WHEW- THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD MEAT

Please, forgive me for suspecting you of falsehood.
Impressive. None can deny the legitimacy of your miraculous talents after that, young one.
From now on, you are true knights!!
Proudly defend Étienne with your very lives if necessary until you reach the Holy Land.
In kind, I owe an apology to the rest of your fellowship.
By the power vested in me as a member of the Knights Templar
I hereby proclaim the members of the Children's Crusade an officially recognized sect of the Knights Templar!!

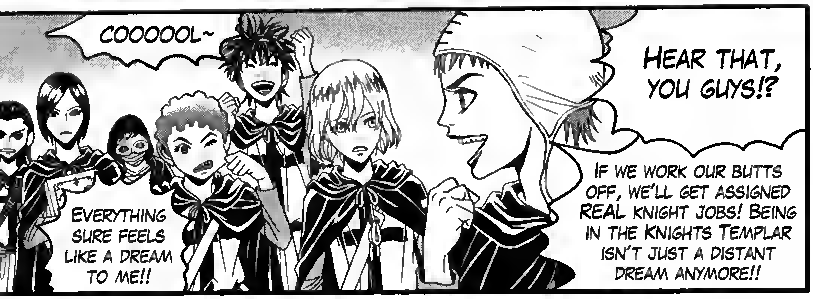
WE'RE PART OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR NOW!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHAT A SURPRISING OUTCOME..
GREAT!
YES!
FOR REAL!?
BEATS ME
HUH? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON?
BASICALLY, ALL OF US ARE BEING APPOINTED AS REAL KNIGHTS IN THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR. WE'LL BE LIKE A JUNIOR SQUADRON, RIGHT, SIR!?
NICOLAS, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CORRECT.
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE IS PROTECTED BY THE BOND I, HUGO, HAVE CHOSEN TO BESTOW UPON YOU ALL!!

OUR CRUSADE'S SANCTIONED NOW.
CATCH ANY OF THAT, ÉTIENNE!?
WITH JUST ONE TOOT, YOU TURNED THAT CROWD OF DOUBTERS AND GAWKERS INTO TRUE BELIEVERS!!
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE, BUD.
OVERWHELMING SUCCESS ON THE FIRST DAY OF OUR JOURNEY.
COULD THIS BE THE RESIDUAL EFFECTS OF ÉTIENNE'S POWER OVER MIRACLES!?
WOW, WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE TOWN'S ATTENTION!!

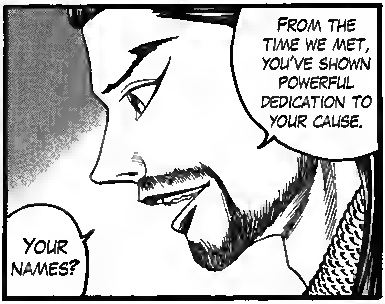
The Knights Templar were arguably the most respected and important military group throughout Europe during this age.
Originally employed by the Church and bestowed the privelage of escorting pilgrims to and from the Holy Land, after the first holy crusade they gradually shifted their purpose to reclamation of Jerusalem.

Knights Templar Offical Branch

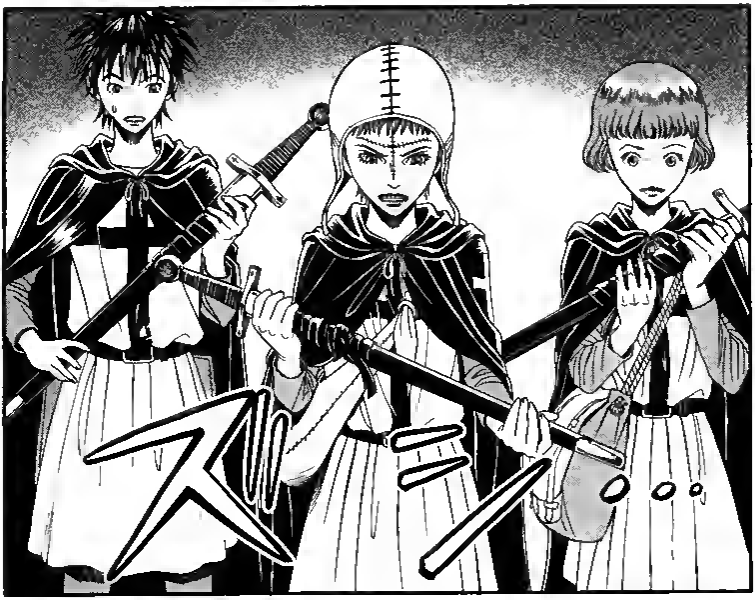
After this ceremonial appointment is complete, your status as Knights Templar shall be officially decreed. Furthermore, your crusade will be seen as a preliminary assignment as knights. Depending on your success, you may be asked to participate in future Templar activity.


COOOOOL~
Hear that, you guys!?
If we work our butts off, we'll get assigned REAL knight jobs! Being in the Knights Templar isn't just a distant dream anymore!!
Everything sure feels like a dream to me!!

Nicolas!
Commander Nicolas, that is!!


From the time we met, you've shown powerful dedication to your cause.
Your names?

CORPORAL LUC AT YOUR SERVICE.
I-I'M THE VICE COMMANDER, HENRI!!
I'M MARC!!
COME FORTH.
HAHA, SORRY. COULDN'T HELP IT.
YES-SIR.
STOP IT-
D-DON'T TREAT ME LIKE I'M JUST A LITTLE KID!!
HENRI, EH?
WHAT AN ADORABLE VICE COMMANDER.
ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE PREPARED THESE WEAPONS FOR YOUR JOURNEY.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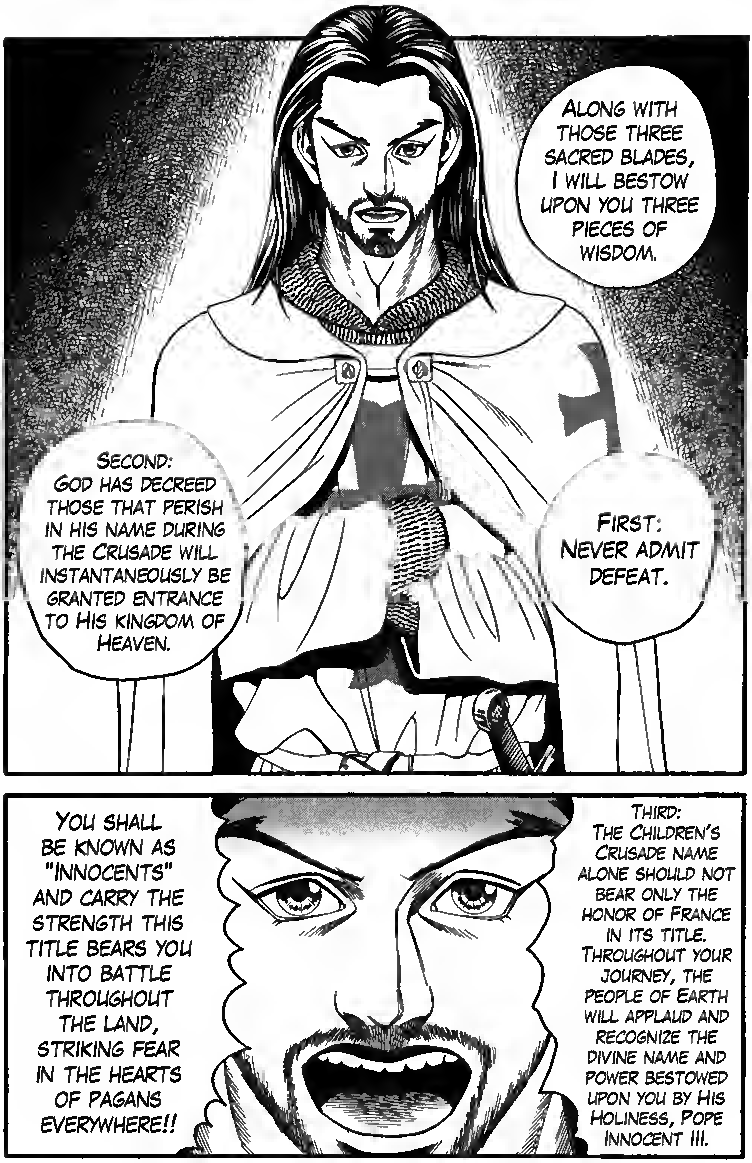
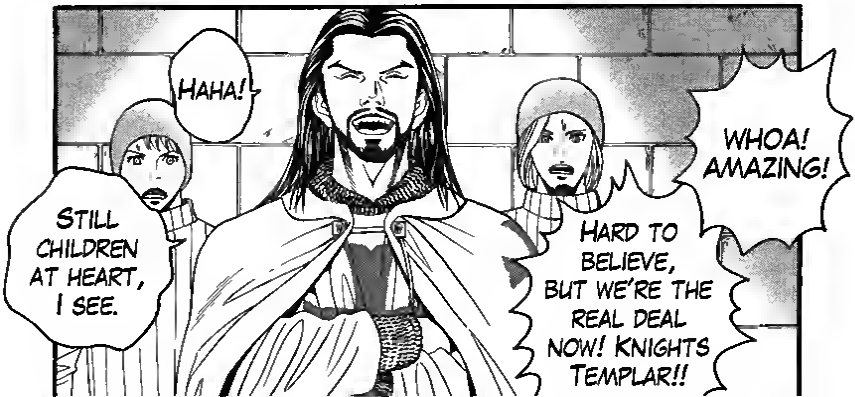
I-INCREDIBLE, IT'S ADORNED WITH THE MARK OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AT THE HILT...
Y-YOU'RE SERIOUSLY JUST GONNA GIVE US THESE?


Along with those three sacred blades, I will bestow upon you three pieces of wisdom.
First: Never admit defeat.
Second: God has decreed those that perish in his name during the Crusade will instantaneously be granted entrance to His kingdom of Heaven.
Third: The Children's Crusade name alone should not bear only the honor of France in its title. Throughout your journey, the people of Earth will applaud and recognize the divine name and power bestowed upon you by His Holiness, Pope Innocent III.
You shall be known as "Innocents" and carry the strength this title bears you into battle throughout the land, striking fear in the hearts of pagans everywhere!!

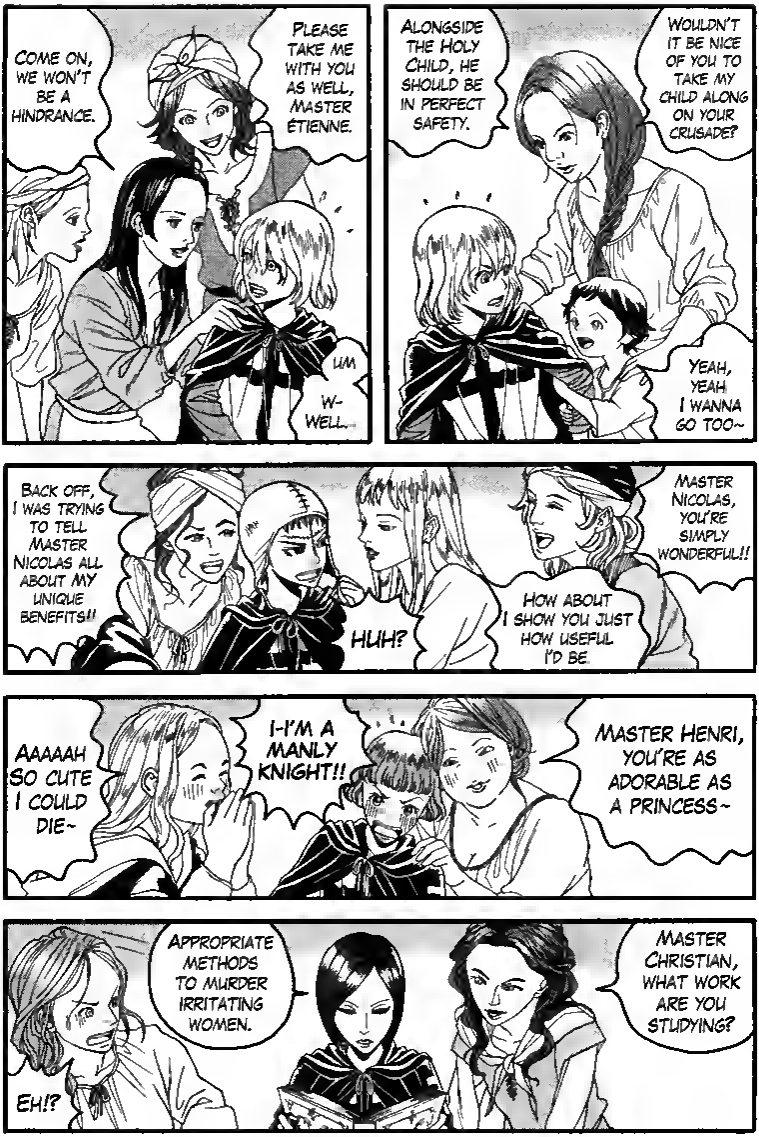
A POWERFUL BLOW TO THE NECK SYMBOLIZED THE APPOINTMENT OF KNIGHTHOOD

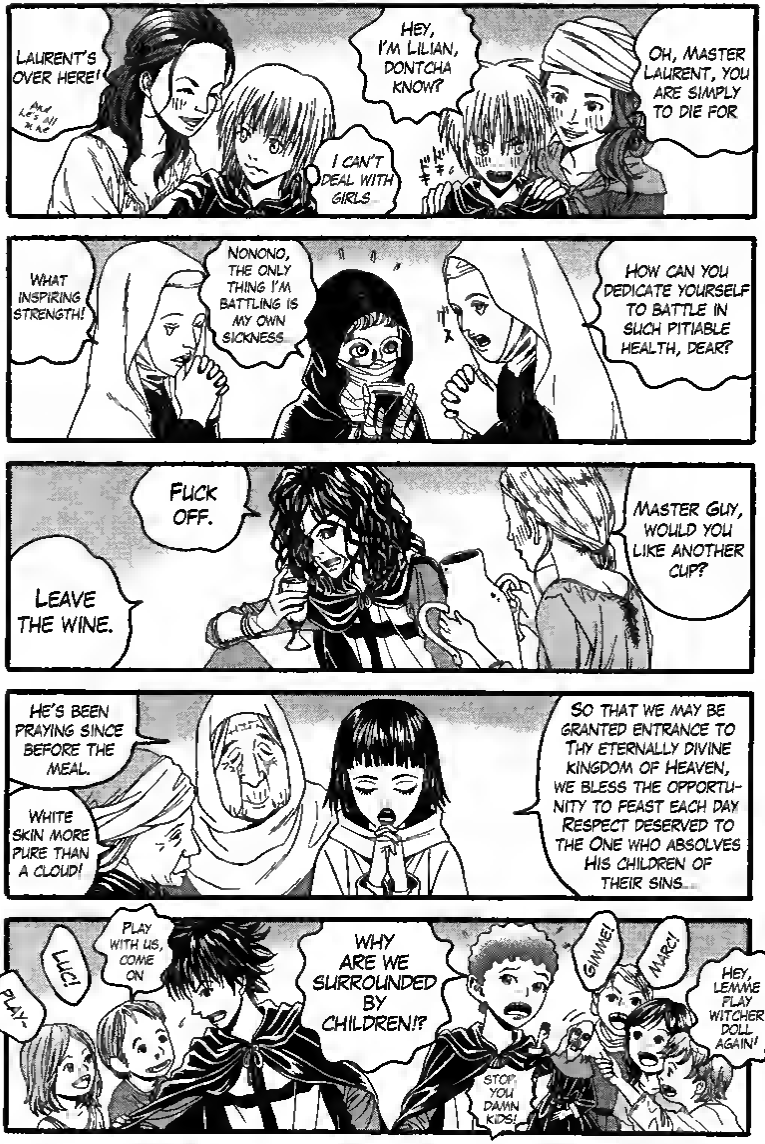
MORE IMPORTANTLY, LEAD YOUR MEN SO THAT THEY GROW INTO SPLENDID KNIGHTS THE ENTIRE ORDER WOULD BE PROUD OF
PROTECT ÉTIENNE WITH YOUR SWORD.
MMMH
NNNNNGH...

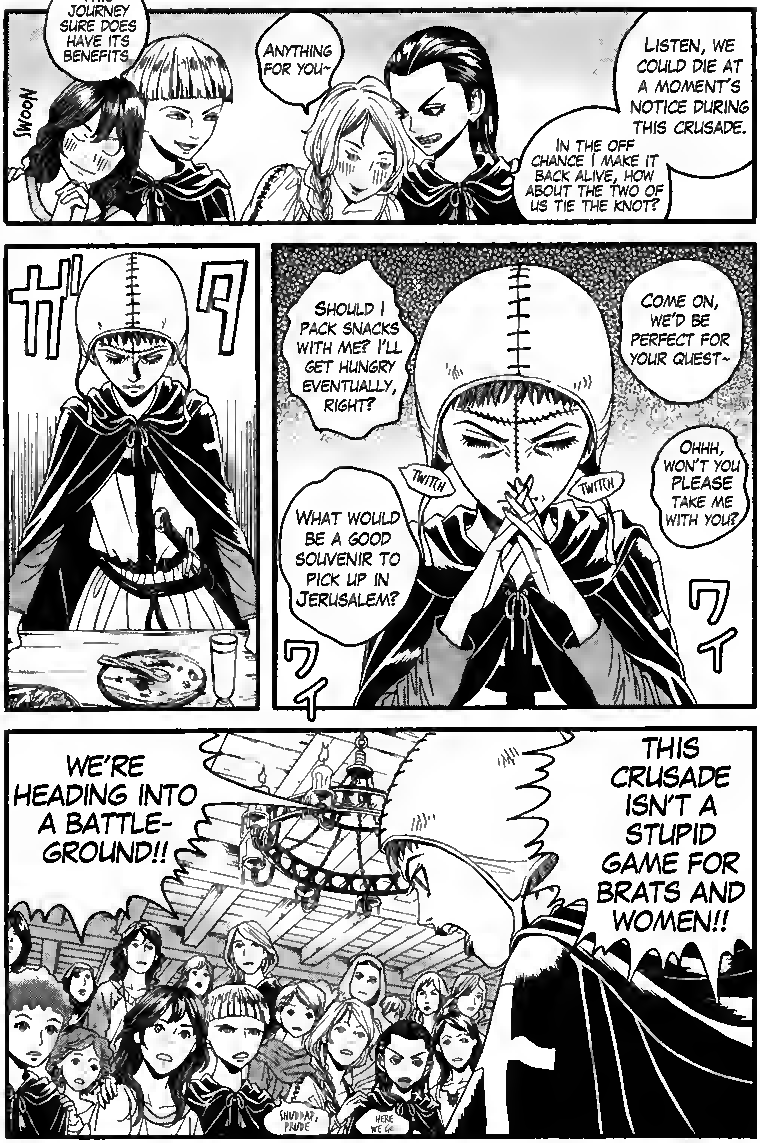
THIS SWORD IS UNBELIEVABLY AWESOME!!
CHECK IT OUT!
WERE YOU LISTENING LILIAN? WE'RE BOTH REAL KNIGHTS NOW
WHOA, I FEEL LIKE A TOTAL HERO JUST WIELDING THIS THING!!
STRANGE WE'VE COME SO FAR IN SO SHORT TIME
FAT CHANCE. HUGO GAVE THIS SWORD TO ME!
LEMME TOUCH YOUR SWORD!
I-I'M A KNIGHT TOO...?
WHAT A STUNNING DEVELOPMENT
I-INDEED
HE HEHE.


HAHA!
WHOA! AMAZING!
STILL CHILDREN AT HEART, I SEE.
HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT WE'RE THE REAL DEAL NOW! KNIGHTS TEMPLAR!!

ENJOY YOUR STAY THERE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR LODGING HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY THE LOCAL BARON AT HIS CASTLE ESTATE.
PLEASE, HELP YOURSELVES TO MORE.
EAT UP, LADS.
BLESS US, O LORD, AND THESE, THY GIFTS,
HEY, PLAY WITH ME.
HOW IS THE WINE, M'LORD?
MAKE SURE YOU EAT LOTS OF MY COOKING
DELISH!
GLUG GLUG
TRY THIS, LILIAN. IT'S SO GOOD!
ÉPOISSES DE BOURGOGNE CHEESE?


Come on, we won't be a hindrance.
Please take me with you as well, Master Étienne.
Um w-well...
Alongside the Holy Child, he should be in perfect safety.
Wouldn't it be nice of you to take my child along on your crusade?
Yeah, yeah I wanna go too~
Back off, I was trying to tell Master Nicolas all about my unique benefits!!
Huh?
How about I show you just how useful I'd be.
Master Nicolas, you're simply wonderful!!
Aaaaah so cute I could die~
I-I'm a manly knight!!
Master Henri, you're as adorable as a princess~
Eh!?
Appropriate methods to murder irritating women.
Master Christian, what work are you studying?


LAURENT'S OVER HERE!
AND LOOK AT HIM!
I CAN'T DEAL WITH GIRLS...
HEY, I'M LILIAN, DONTCHA KNOW?
OH, MASTER LAURENT, YOU ARE SIMPLY TO DIE FOR
WHAT INSPIRING STRENGTH!
NONONO, THE ONLY THING I'M BATTLING IS MY OWN SICKNESS...
HOW CAN YOU DEDICATE YOURSELF TO BATTLE IN SUCH PITIABLE HEALTH, DEAR?
FUCK OFF.
LEAVE THE WINE.
MASTER GUY, WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER CUP?
HE'S BEEN PRAYING SINCE BEFORE THE MEAL.
WHITE SKIN MORE PURE THAN A CLOUD!
SO THAT WE MAY BE GRANTED ENTRANCE TO THY ETERNALLY DIVINE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, WE BLESS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FEAST EACH DAY RESPECT DESERVED TO THE ONE WHO ABSOLVES HIS CHILDREN OF THEIR SINS...
PLAY.
LUC!
PLAY WITH US, COME ON
WHY ARE WE SURROUNDED BY CHILDREN!?
STOP, YOU DAMN KIDS!
GIMME!
MARC!
HEY, LEMME PLAY WITCHER DOLL AGAIN!


THIS JOURNEY SURE DOES HAVE ITS BENEFITS.
SWOON
ANYTHING FOR YOU~
LISTEN, WE COULD DIE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE DURING THIS CRUSADE.
IN THE OFF CHANCE I MAKE IT BACK ALIVE, HOW ABOUT THE TWO OF US TIE THE KNOT?
ガリ
SHOULD I PACK SNACKS WITH ME? I'LL GET HUNGRY EVENTUALLY, RIGHT?
COME ON, WE'D BE PERFECT FOR YOUR QUEST~
OHHH, WON'T YOU PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU?
TWITCH
TWITCH
WHAT WOULD BE A GOOD SOUVENIR TO PICK UP IN JERUSALEM?
ワイ
ワイ
WE'RE HEADING INTO A BATTLE-GROUND!!
THIS CRUSADE ISN'T A STUPID GAME FOR BRATS AND WOMEN!!
SHUSHAA, PRAISE
HERE WE GO

FIRST OFF, YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU'RE A BOY BETWEEN THE AGES OF EIGHT AND FOURTEEN!!
FURTHERMORE, YOU'RE ONLY ACCEPTED IF YOU ARE SERIOUSLY DEDICATED TO PROTECTING ÉTIENNE!!
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
AIN'T NOBODY AROUND BETTER AT USING A SLING THAN ME.
I'M... SERIOUS.

I WANNA FIGHT FOR GLORY IN GOD'S NAME!!
DON'T KNOW A SOUL THAT'S GOT CLEARER EYESIGHT THAN I!!
ME TOO!
BELIEVE ME, I'M DEDICATED TO PRESERVING ÉTIENNE'S LIFE!!
SURE, YOU MAKE THE CUT TOO.
I WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU!
ALRIGHT, YOU'RE ACCEPTED JUST DON'T EXPECT THINGS TO BE SMOOTH SAILING.
YAHOO!
OKAY, OKAY. SETTLE DOWN.
LINE UP!!
REGARDLESS OF AGE, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND ORDERS OF ALL TWELVE OF US ORIGINAL APOSTLES!!
I HEREBY NAME THOSE WHO PASSED AS 'LAMBS'!
GOTCHA!
YESSIR!

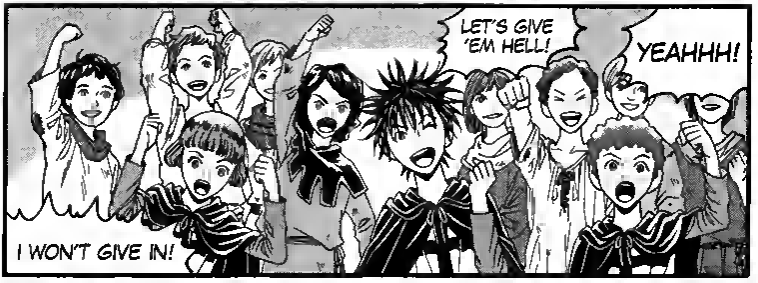
I NEVER HAD THE INTENTION OF OUR CRUSADE ESCALATING THIS FAR
UM, NICOLAS.
NICOLAS, A WORD, IF YOU MAY.
TWELVE COMPANIONS IS PLENTIFUL ENOUGH.
I ONLY WISHED TO CARRY OUT THIS MISSION IN ORDER TO FULFILL GOD'S WILL.
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT DAY SO LONG AGO?
ÉTIENNE, THIS COULD BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO BOLSTER OUR RANKS.

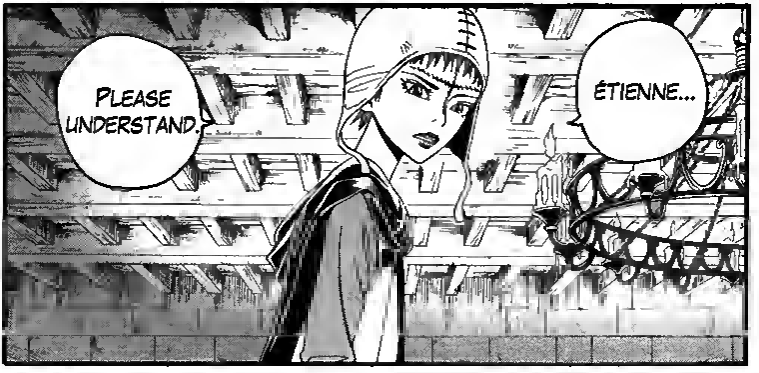
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, WE'VE ASPIRED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND THE TIME FINALLY ARRIVED FOR THAT DREAM TO BECOME REALITY.
HOW CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT AS MIRACULOUS!?

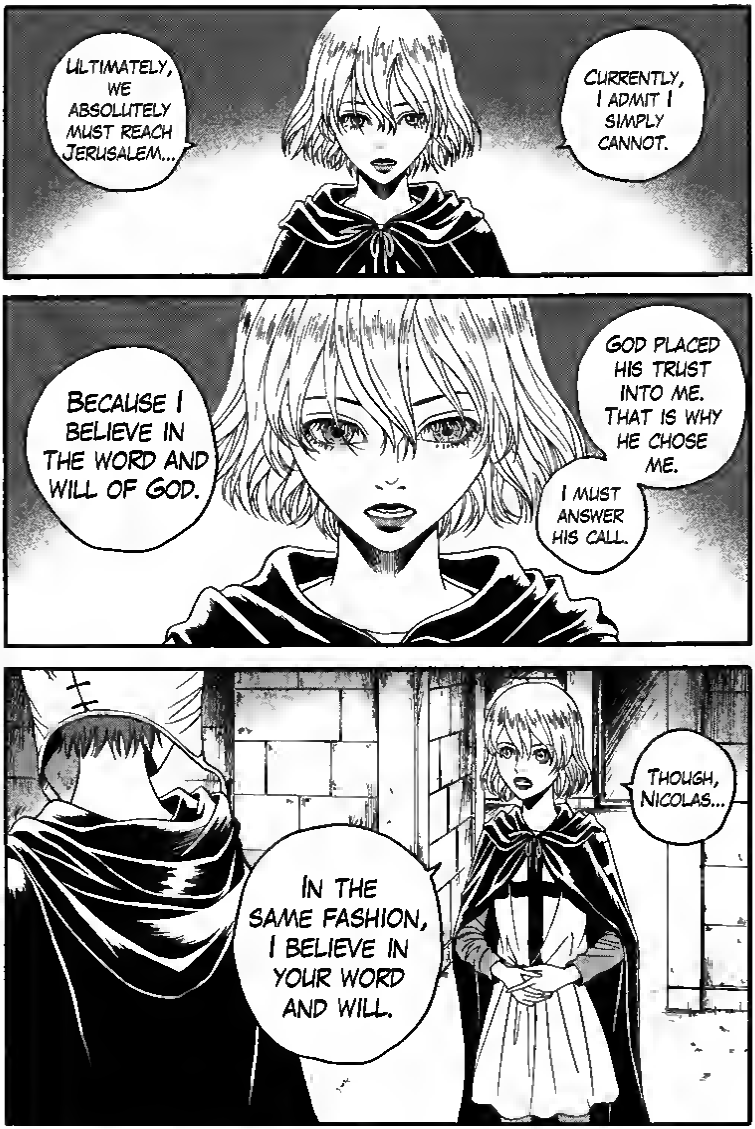
EVERYONE, LISTEN CLOSELY!!
ON THIS DAY, WE WERE HONORED WITH THESE HOLY BLADES.

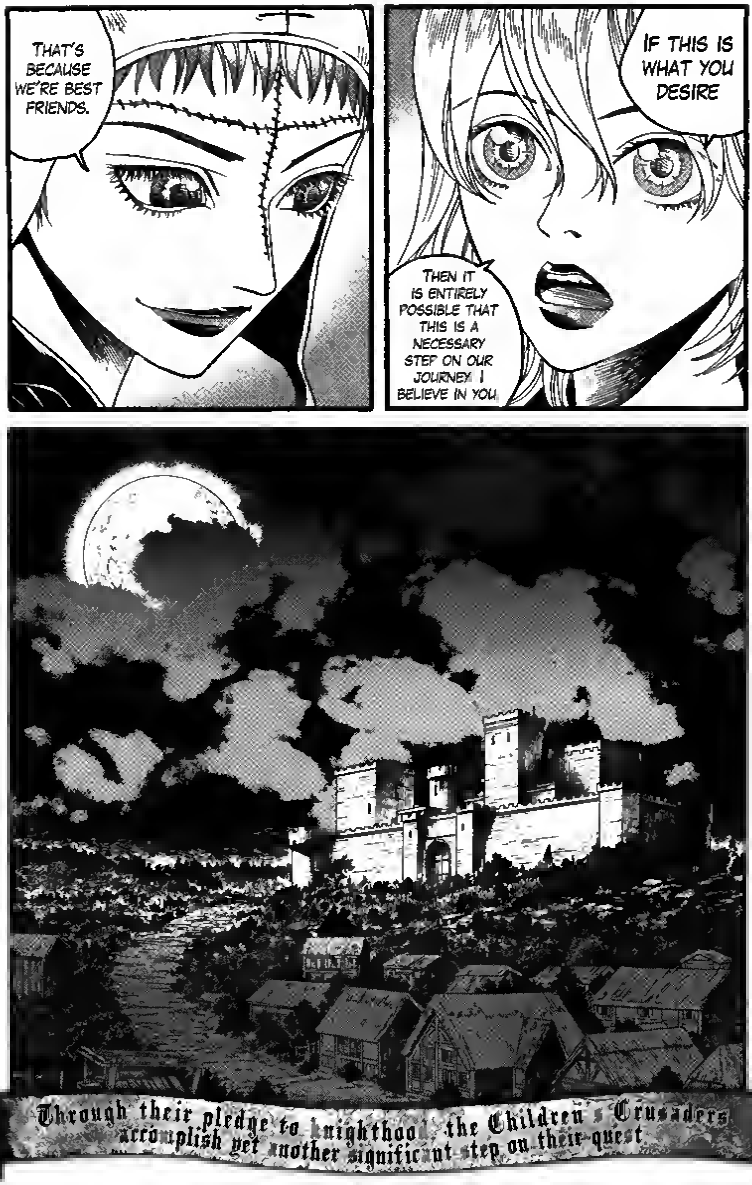
AND OUR GOALS ARE BUT ONE!!
RECLAIMING THE HOLY LAND OF JERUSALEM!!
THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE IS DOUBTLESSLY THE STRONGEST BAND OF YOUNG MEN OUT THERE!!

HOW, YOU ASK? BY ACCOMPLISHING WHAT FOR AGES COUNTLESS MEN HAVE FAILED TO ACHIEVE THROUGH ÉTIENNE'S MIRACLES AND OUR BATTLE PROWESS!!
HUGO ASSERTED HIS EXPECTATIONS OF OUR SUCCESS AND WE SEEK TO ANSWER THOSE EXPECTATIONS!!


I WON'T GIVE IN!
LET'S GIVE 'EM HELL!
YEAHHH!

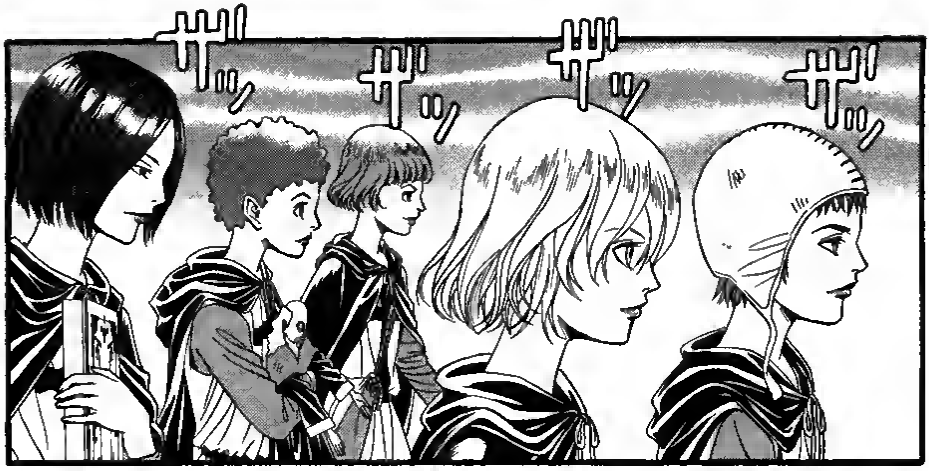

PLEASE UNDERSTAND.
ÉTIENNE...

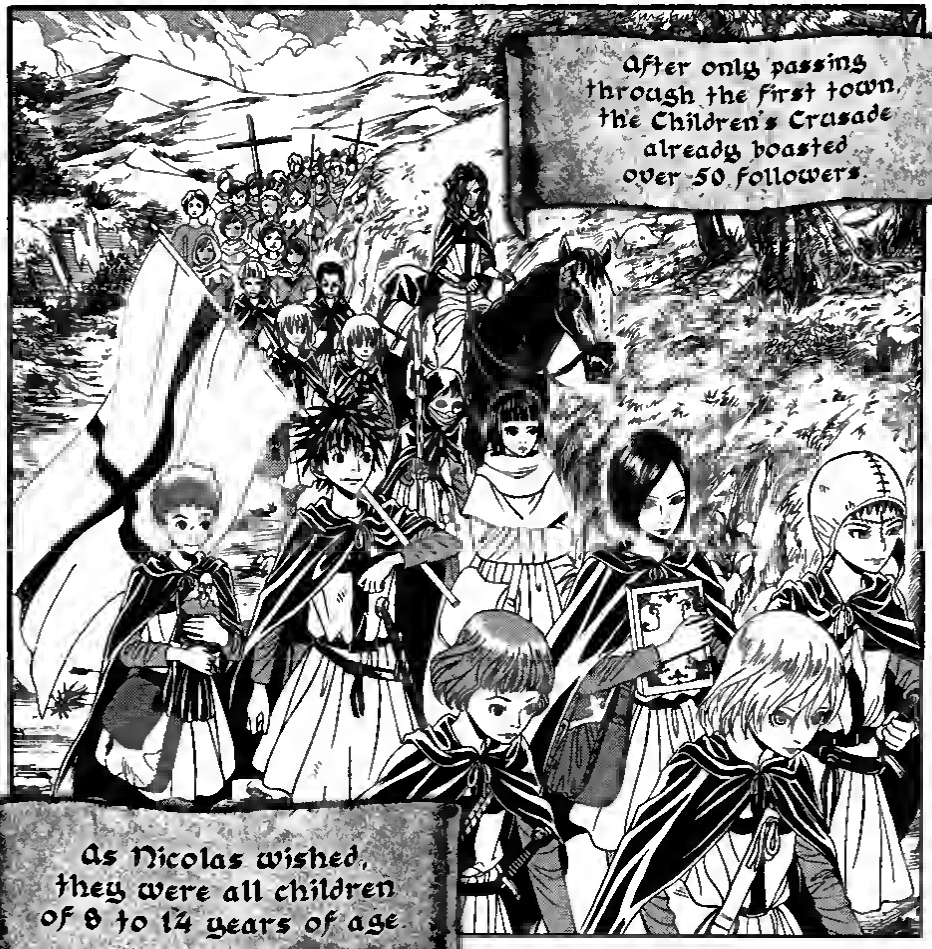

ULTIMATELY, WE ABSOLUTELY MUST REACH JERUSALEM...
CURRENTLY, I ADMIT I SIMPLY CANNOT.
BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD.
GOD PLACED HIS TRUST INTO ME. THAT IS WHY HE CHOSE ME.
I MUST ANSWER HIS CALL.
IN THE SAME FASHION, I BELIEVE IN YOUR WORD AND WILL.
THOUGH, NICOLAS...


THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE BEST FRIENDS.
IF THIS IS WHAT YOU DESIRE
THEN IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS A NECESSARY STEP ON OUR JOURNEY. I BELIEVE IN YOU.
Through their pledge to knighthood, the Children's Crusaders accomplish yet another significant step on their quest.

Chapter 6

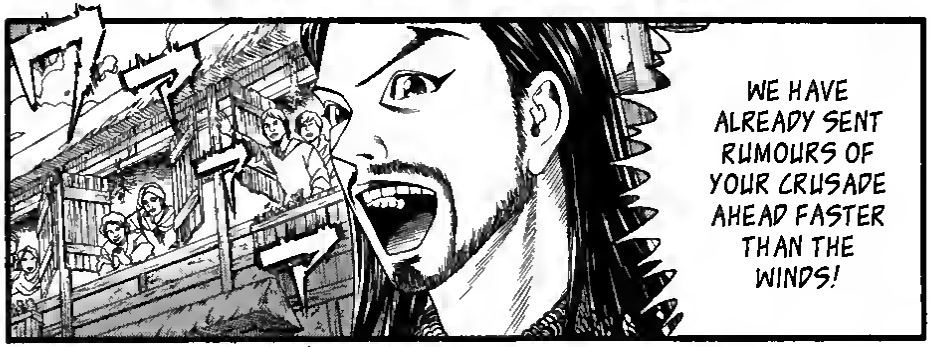
Innocents — The Pure Children




After only passing through the first town, the Children's Crusade already boasted over 50 followers.
As Nicolas wished, they were all children of 8 to 14 years of age

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THESE CHILDREN!
THIS IS ÉTIENNE AND HIS CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!
SUCH A LARGE CROWD...
Whoa!
Henri
Christian
Nicolas
Étienne
THE CHILD OF MIRACLES HAS GRACED YOUR TOWN WITH HIS PRESENCE!

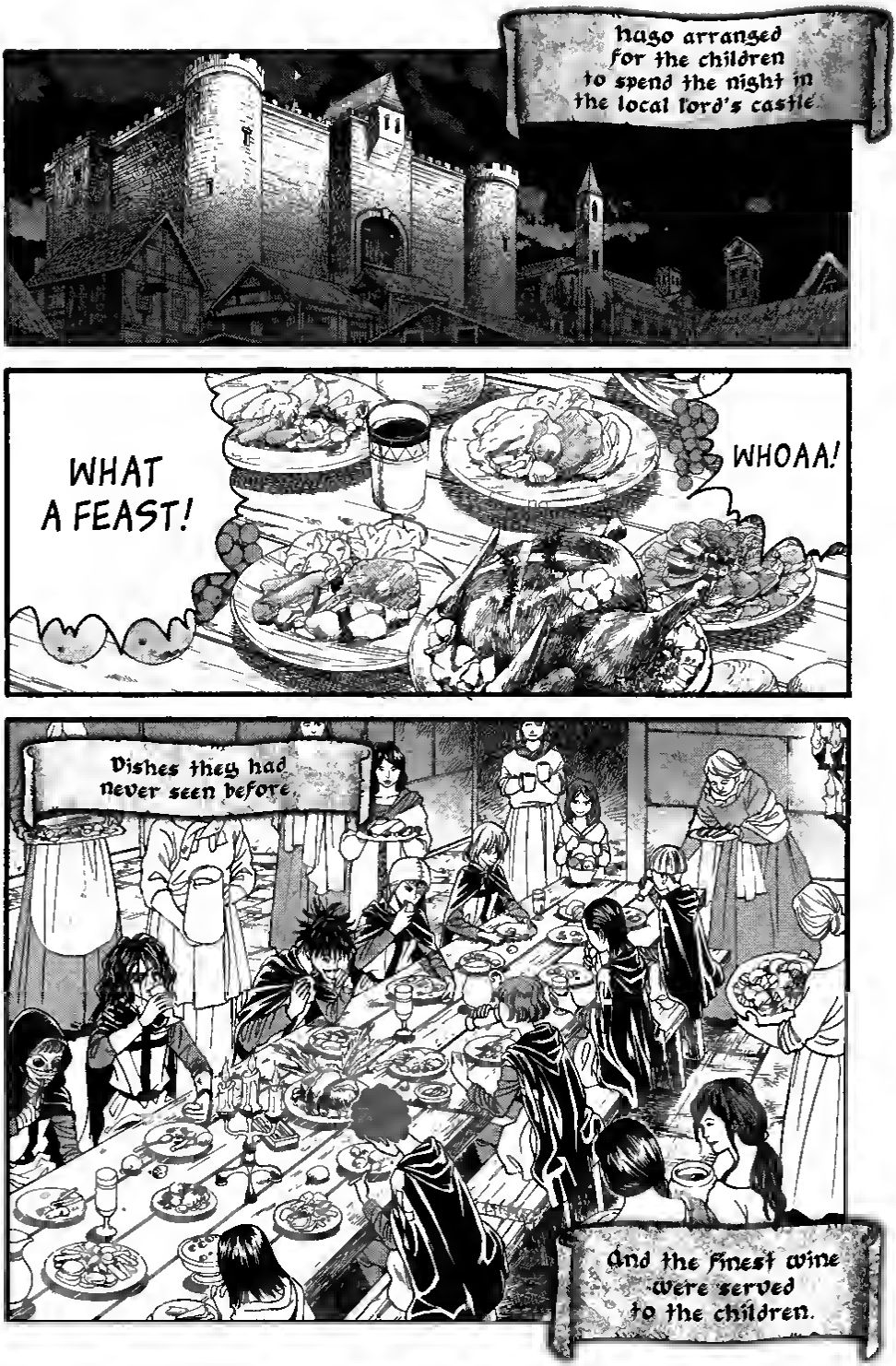
BEATS ME.
HOW DO THEY ALREADY KNOW OF US!?


WE HAVE ALREADY SENT RUMOURS OF YOUR CRUSADE AHEAD FASTER THAN THE WINDS!

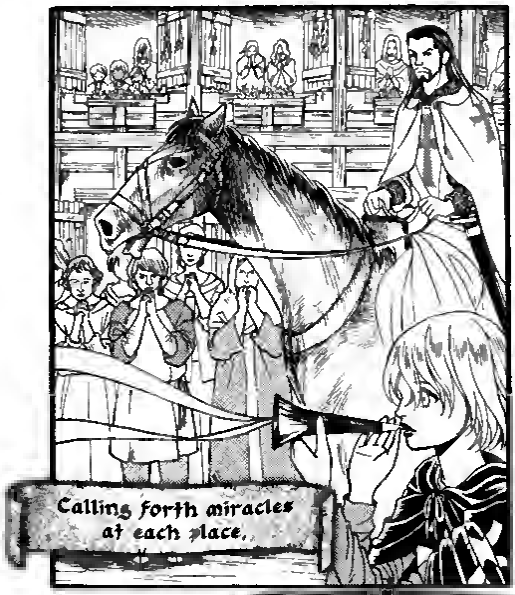
FOR THE CHILD OF MIRACLES TO COME!
THESE PEOPLE HAVE WAITED LONG!
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!

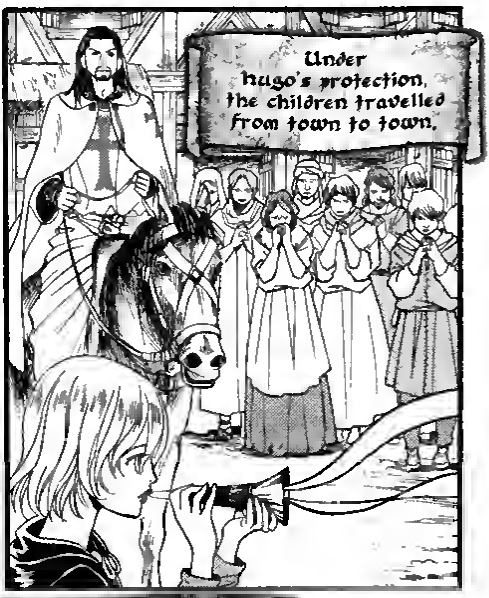
NOW, ÉTIENNE!
PLAY YOUR HORN OF MIRACLES FOR THESE UNFORTUNATE SOULS!
amidst the crowd's intent stares...

MY MOTHER CAN STAND!
SHE STOOD UP!
I CAN SEE AGAIN...
MY EYES...
IT'S A MIR-ACLE...
A MIR-ACLE.
A TRUE MIRA-CLE...
THIS IS,
The town wept at the sight of the miracles.
ÉTIENNE, THE CHILD OF GOD...
The sound of the horn they longed for filled the air...


Hugo arranged for the children to spend the night in the local lord's castle.
WHAT A FEAST!
WHOAA!
Dishes they had never seen before.
And the finest wine were served to the children.

THIS WINE IS FANTAS-TIC!
MMNNN!
I'M FEELIN' TIPSY...


Calling forth miracles at each place,


Under Hugo's protection, the children travelled from town to town,

Such that word of the child of God and his Children's Crusade were known far across the lands in little time.

※ CONCERNED ABOUT BLIND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHILDREN WHO WORKED MIRACLES, PHILIP II, KING OF FRANCE, TRIED TO FORBID FURTHER CHILDREN FROM JOINING, BUT HE COULD DO LITTLE TO STOP THE FERVENT ENTHUSIASM AROUND THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE.

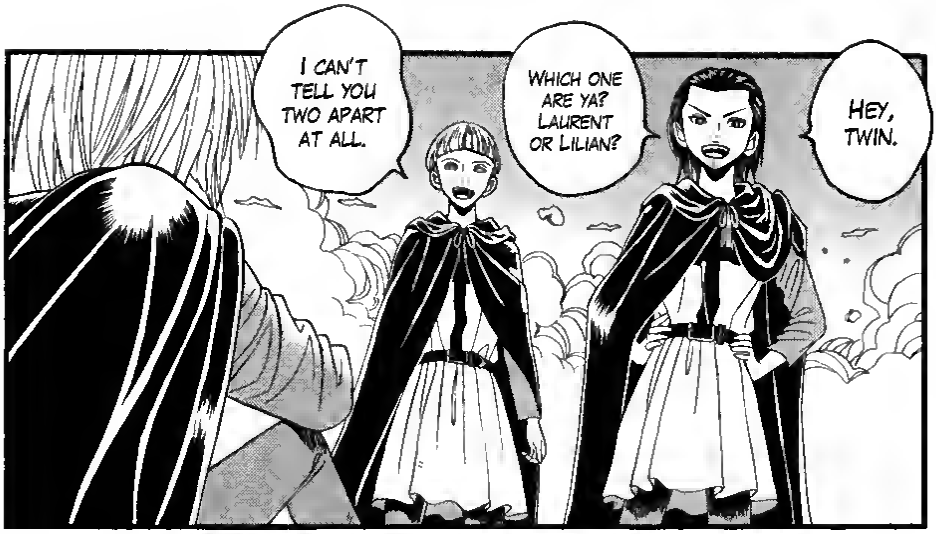
DON'T STRAY OR DELAY!
THIS WAY, LAMBS!
Luc
AH!
Marc
BAAAHHH!
BAAHHH!
BAAAHHH!
HEY! NO FIGHT-ING!
WHAT THE HELL!
YOU TRYIN' TO PICK A FIGHT!?
NO CRYING.
NOW, NOW.
B-BUT HE...
NO, HE...

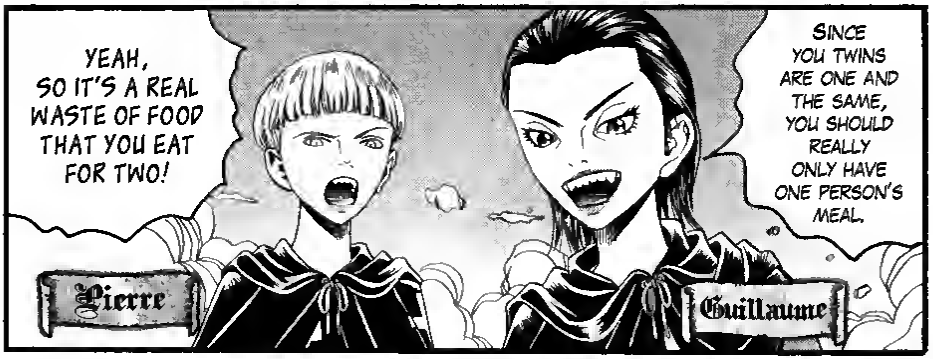
THEN DON'T FALL ASLEEP!
ZZZZZZ
WHY DON'T I TELL YOU ALL A GOOD TALE?
PLEASE!
SHOW US SOME MORE, MARC!
UHHHHH...
YEAH, MORE!
AHAHA-
HEE HEE HEE!
YEAH, YOU SAID IT.
THE 8 YEAR-OLD GROUP IS REALLY JUST A BUNCH OF LIL' BRATS
COME ON!
BABYSITTING THESE KIDS IS A HANDFUL!
MORE, MARC!
SHOW US!

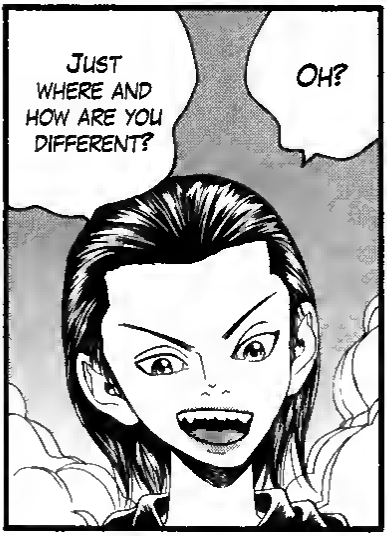
I NEED TO PEE!
ME TOO!
LUC! I HAFTA POO-POO!
WAIT JUST A MOMENT.
WHA?
Older twin:
Laurent
LILIAN.
LILIAN.
!

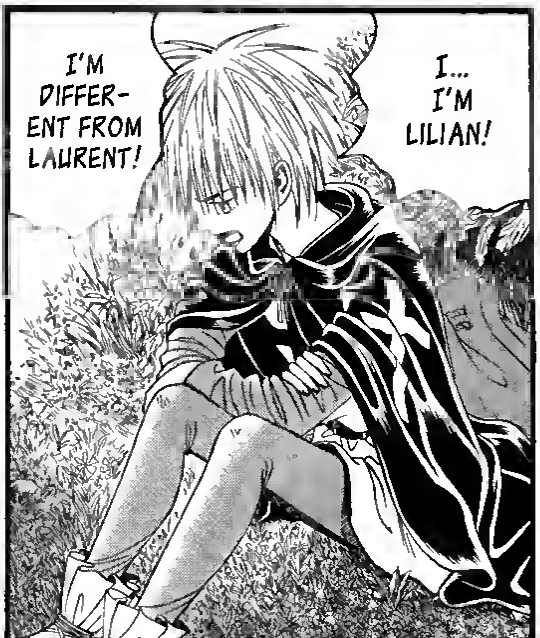
ÉTIENNE.
The younger twin: Lilian
THE 8 YEAR-OLDS AT THE BACK NEED A POTTY BREAK.
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE! BREAK TIME!
OKAY, I GOT IT.
HEEEYY!
PEE PEE!
AHAHAHAHA!
THAT'S AMAZING, LAURENT!
I NEVER KNEW SUCH AN ABILITY EXISTED!
IT SURE IS HELPFUL WHEN MARCHING IN A LONG FILE.

IT'S BECAUSE LILIAN AND I,
ARE TWO BODIES BUT OF ONE SPIRIT.
HAHAHA!
BUT THEN AGAIN, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS HAIR DOWN HERE YET!
LAURENT... YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE SURE HAVING FUN.
GOOD ONE, LAURENT!
HAHAHA!
HMPH.


I CAN'T TELL YOU TWO APART AT ALL.
WHICH ONE ARE YA? LAURENT OR LILIAN?
HEY, TWIN.


YEAH, SO IT'S A REAL WASTE OF FOOD THAT YOU EAT FOR TWO!
SINCE YOU TWINS ARE ONE AND THE SAME, YOU SHOULD REALLY ONLY HAVE ONE PERSON'S MEAL.
Pierre
Guillaume


OH?
JUST WHERE AND HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT?


I'M DIFFER-ENT FROM LAURENT!
I... I'M LILIAN!

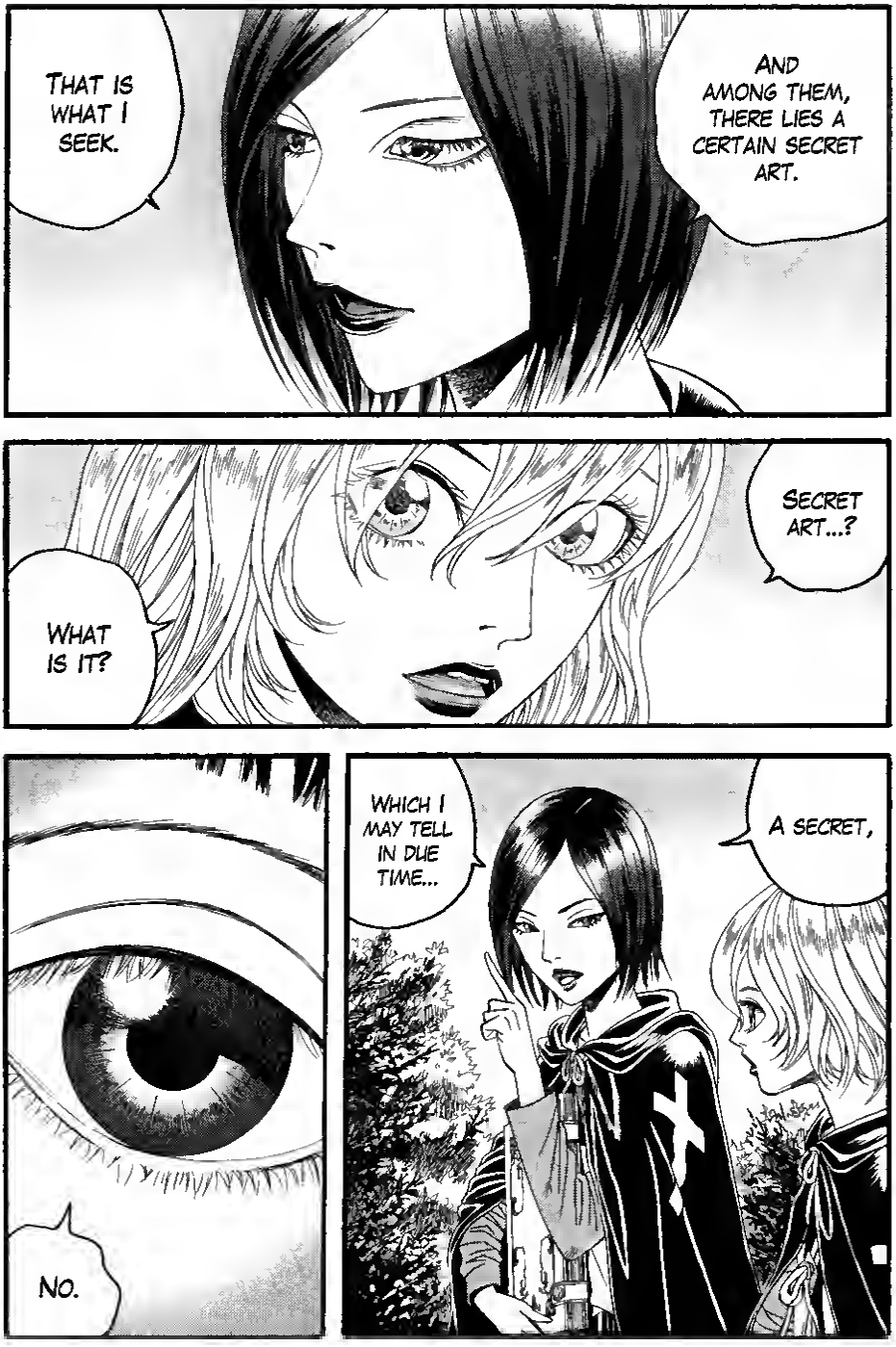
I HAVE A MARK ON MY NECK!
SO I'M DIFFERENT!
LAURENT DOESN'T!
O... OKAY, ALREADY.
NO NEED TO GET MAD.
CREEP.
HAHA.
...
WAIT!

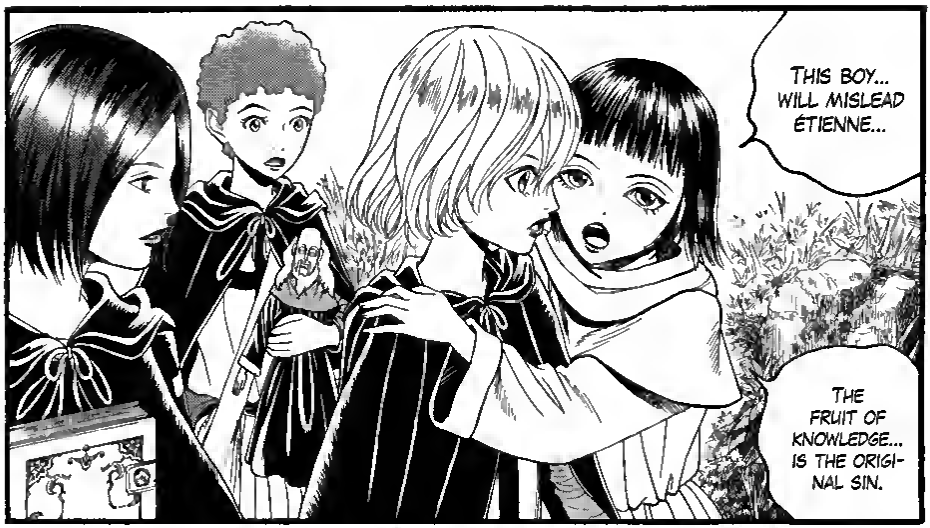
UMM... OKAY, THEN.
HUH?
CAN I BE FRIENDS WITH YOU?
C...
YEAH!
LET'S GET MOVING AGAIN!
ALRIGHT!
...
Hmph
KEEP A GOOD EYE ON THEM, LILIAN
F- FINE!
HMM?
HE'S HUGE!
NO WAY! WHY SHOULD I!?
GUILLAUME, CAN YOU SWITCH WITH ME IN LOOKING AFTER THE 8 YEARS-GROUP?

YOU.
GET ON.
I UNDERSTAND YOU WANTING TO WALK ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET,
BUT YOUR BODY WON'T LAST AT THIS RATE.
Guy
I... I'M FINE.
Remy
AH-
NOW JUST GET ON!
HIS BODY'S STIFF...
!

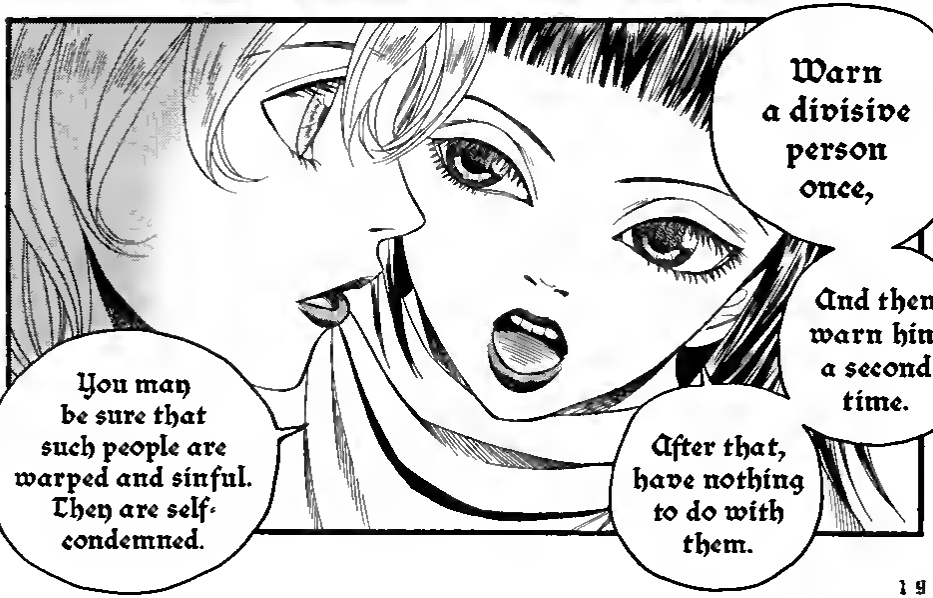
YOUR SHOE'S TORN AND YOUR FOOT'S ALL BLOODY!
AHH, YOU'RE RIGHT. HAHA...
HUH?
AH! YOUR FOOT!
I CAN'T REALLY FEEL PAIN. Haha
BEING A LEPER,
S-SHUT UP!
YOU'RE A PRETTY NICE GUY AFTER ALL, AREN'CHA, GUY?
I'LL GET YOU SOME NEW SHOES AND BANDAGE YOUR FOOT AT THE NEXT TOWN.

THAT'S RIGHT, I NEVER ASKED WHY YOU WISHED TO VISIT JERUSALEM, CHRISTIAN.
AS THE CHILD OF A MERCHANT,
I COLLECT BOOKS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD,
BECAUSE I LOVE GOD...
IS ONLY MY PROFESSED REASON.
THERE IS MUCH KNOWLEDGE IN THIS WORLD TO BE OBTAINED.
WRITTEN ABOUT THINGS WE'VE NEVER SEEN,
OR HEARD...
A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE THAT WE, WHO CAN'T EVEN READ THE BIBLE, CANNOT HOPE TO REACH...


THAT IS WHAT I SEEK.
AND AMONG THEM, THERE LIES A CERTAIN SECRET ART.
SECRET ART...?
WHAT IS IT?
NO.
WHICH I MAY TELL IN DUE TIME...
A SECRET,

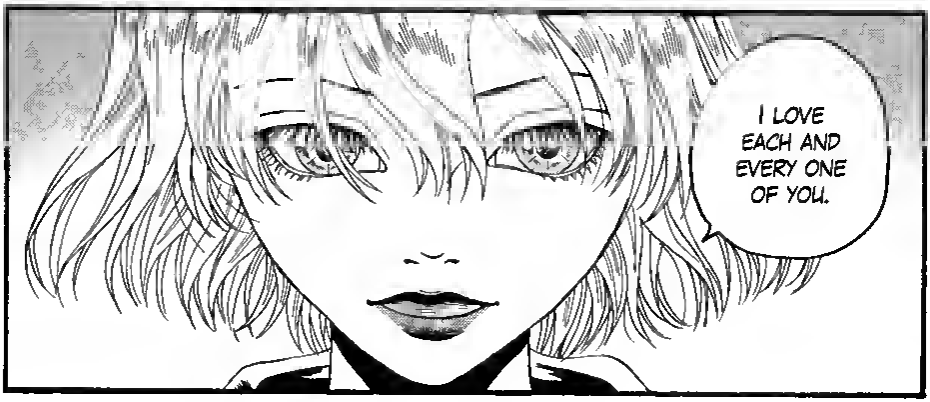

THIS BOY... WILL MISLEAD ÉTIENNE...
THE FRUIT OF KNOWLEDGE... IS THE ORIGINAL SIN.

YOU LOVE ÉTIENNE, DON'T YOU?
AHAHA!
YOU JUST WANT TO HUG HIM, RIGHT?
HA, THAT'S CUTE, MICHAEL!


Warn a divisive person once,
And then warn him a second time.
After that, have nothing to do with them.
You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful. They are self-condemned.

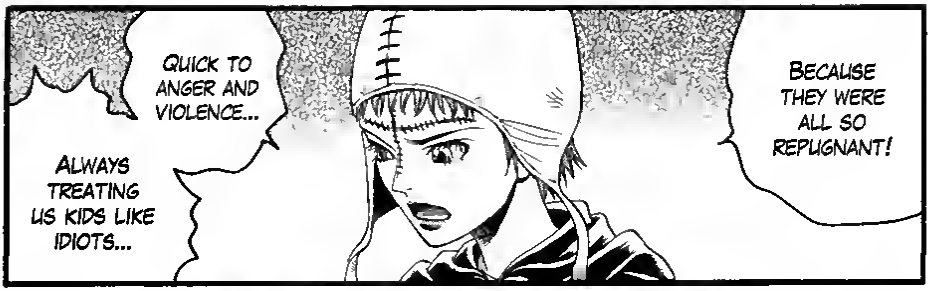
SAY THAT AGAIN, MICHAEL.
W-WHAT WAS THAT?
HUH?
Yeah
I can't tell if Michael's smart or just dumb
I'M AFRAID I'VE FORGOTTEN.
...

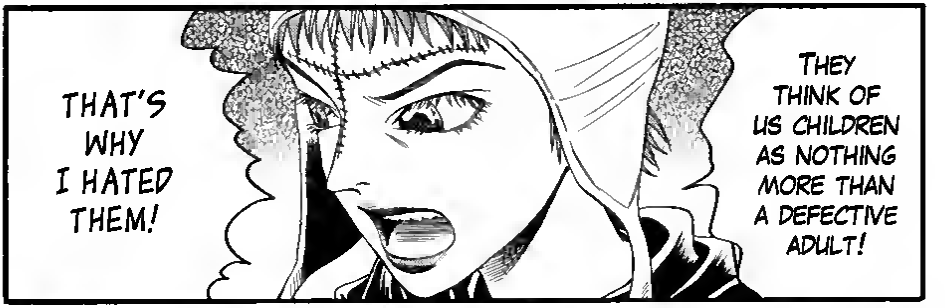
HAPPINESS IS ME,
FOR I AM PROTECTED BY SO MANY OTHER CHILDREN.


I LOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.

I WILL PRAY FOR YOU.
ÉTIENNE!
I'LL PROTECT YOU FOR SURE!
WE'LL BE FRIENDS FOREVER!
GEE, THAT MAKES ME BLUSH.
MARC LOVES YOU TOO, ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
I LOVE YOU TOO!
EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT GOD'S CHOSEN.
I WILL LOVE YOU,

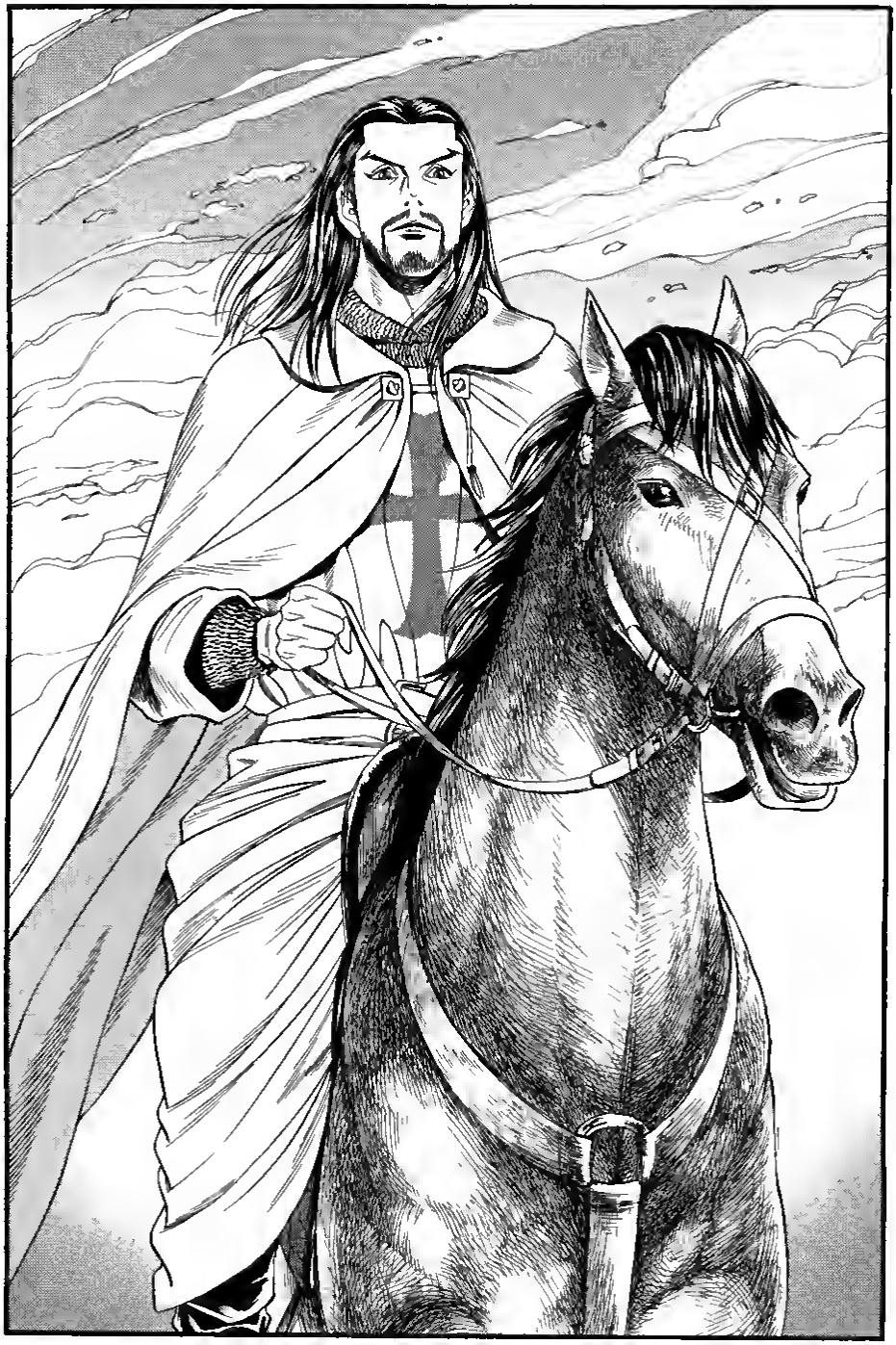
I'VE DECIDED!
I'M NOT GONNA CRY ANYMORE.
AFTER ALL, I'M NOW A VICE-COMMANDER OF THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'VE GOTTA BECOME ADULTS NOW.
AN ADULT, HUH...
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME AN ADULT.

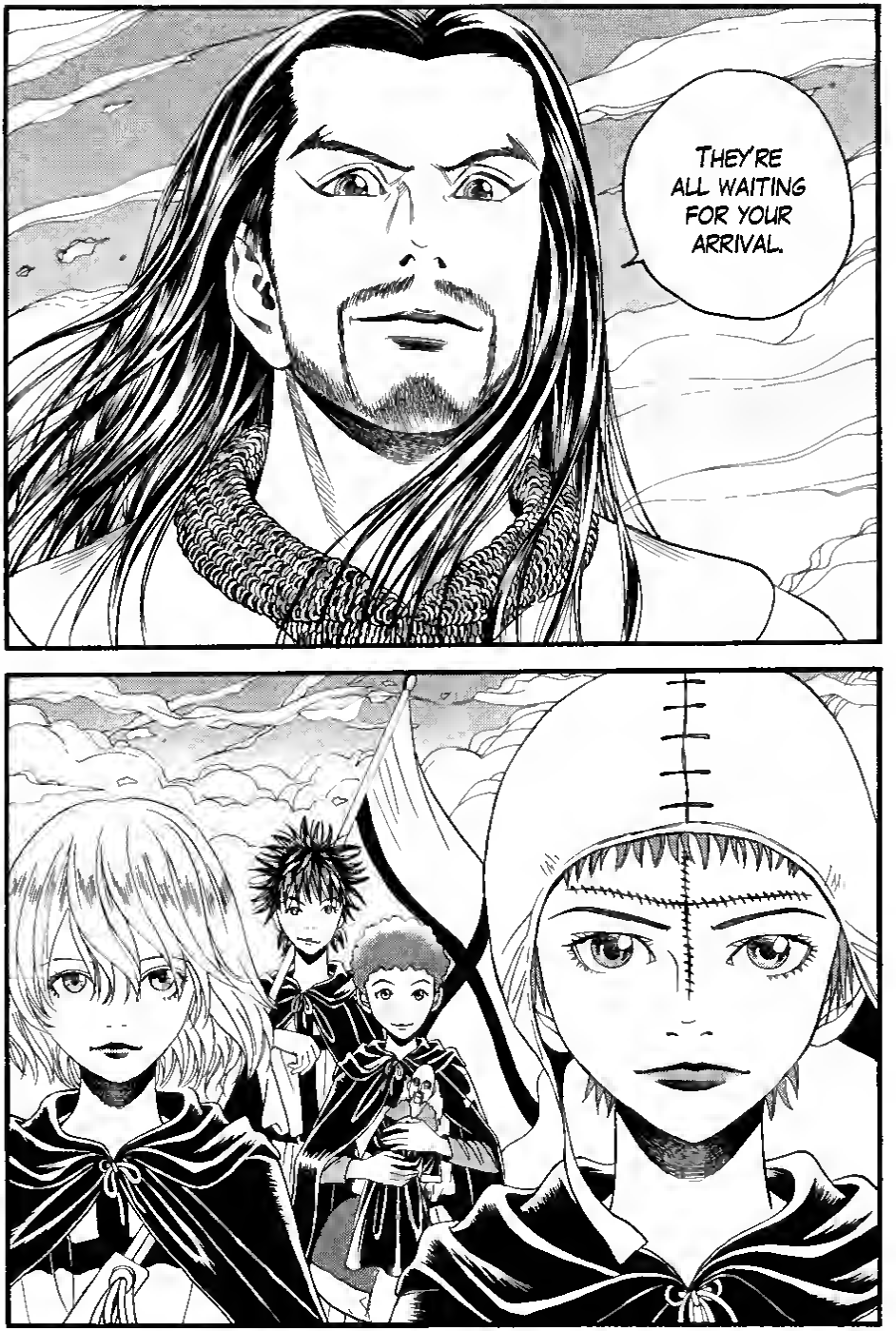

QUICK TO ANGER AND VIOLENCE...
ALWAYS TREATING US KIDS LIKE IDIOTS...
BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL SO REPUGNANT!


THAT'S WHY I HATED THEM!
THEY THINK OF US CHILDREN AS NOTHING MORE THAN A DEFECTIVE ADULT!

AN ADULT WHO RECOGNIZED OUR WORTH...
BUT THEN I MET HIM.

TO BE AN ADULT LIKE HIM...
THAT'S WHY I NOW WANT TO GROW UP,




THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL.

HUGO...
MY MODEL, HUGO!

Chapter 7
Nicolas' Death

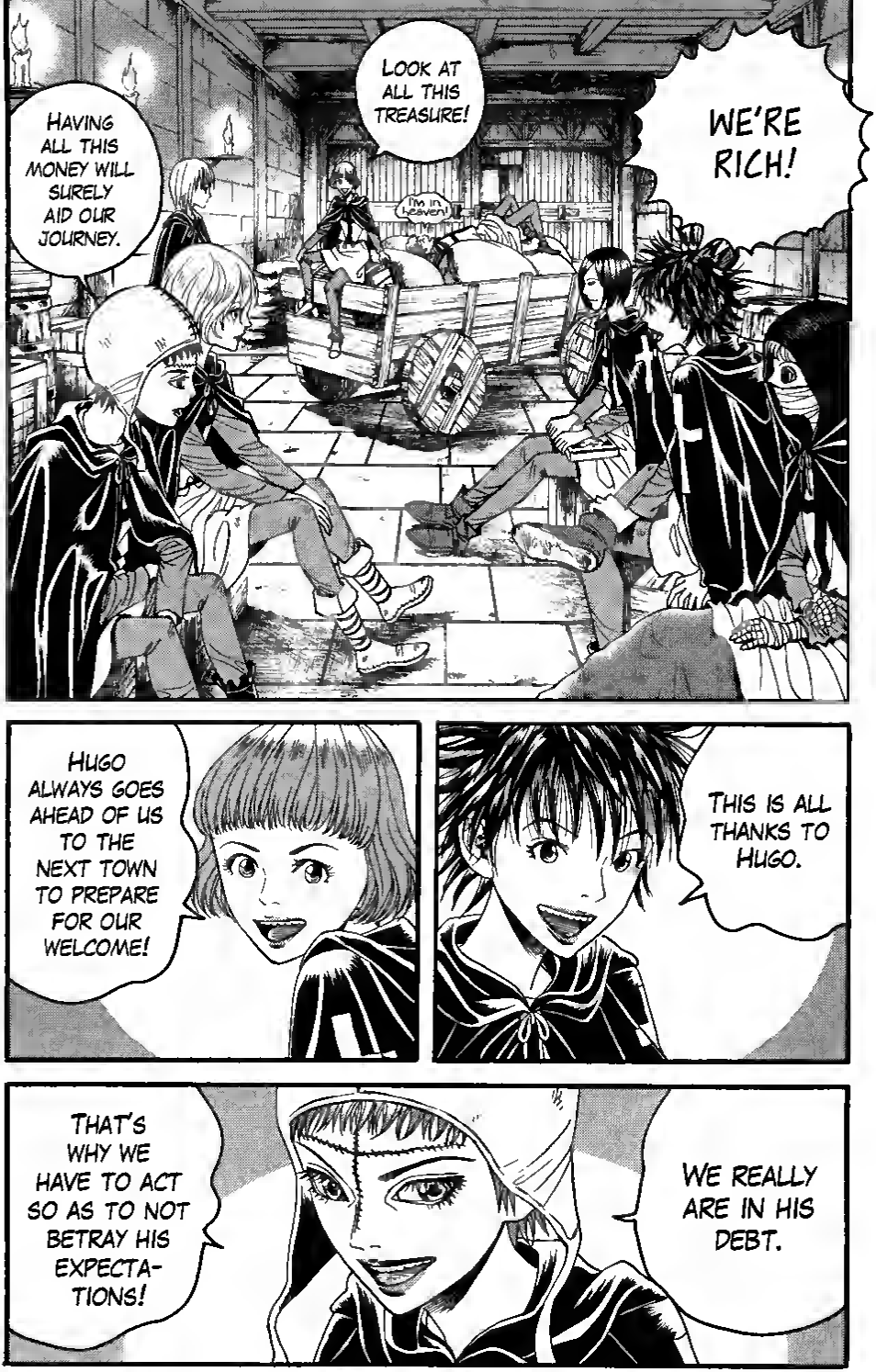
IT'S ÉTIENNE AND THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!
THE CHILD OF MIRACLES AND HIS 12 APOSTLES HAVE COME TO OUR TOWN!
HEAR THEIR ROARING WELCOME!
CAN YOU HEAR THE CHILDREN SINGING!?
Étienne's horn is a horn of miracles
The arrival of God's child to this town has turned all the children into angels

PLAY YOUR HORN OF MIRACLES FOR THE UNFORTUNATE SOULS HERE!
No matter the town they visited, there were sure to be many sick and wounded gathered, who had come from far away after hearing the rumours about Étienne.
Ho
MY CHILD SPOKE!
MAMA!
I CAN MOVE MY HANDS!
MY HEADACHE... IT'S GONE!
The horn of miracles cured many and the people wept before its blessing.

THIS IS NO MIRACLE!
WHAT THE HELL!
I AIN'T CURED AT ALL!
NOTHING CHANGED...
But there were also those who voiced complaints when the horn failed to work its miracles...
YOU WERE NOT HEALED BECAUSE YOU ARE LACKING IN FAITH, SO REPENT!
YOU ARE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE TURNED YOUR BACKS AGAINST GOD, ARE YOU NOT!?
however, Hugo's blunt reply quickly silenced their objections and caused them to repent
YES, SIR...
FORGIVE US...

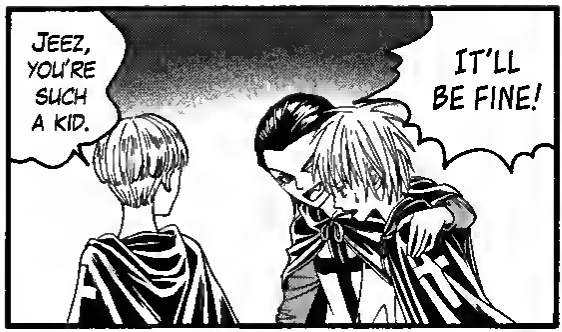
Thus, Étienne's miracles gained ever-wider acclaim and acceptance.
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
ÉTIENNE!
Call my name too!
T-THEY'RE SHOUTING OUR NAMES TOO!
Y-YEAH...
VICE COMMANDER HENRI!
COMMANDER NICOLAS!
LUC!

had the children traveled alone, it is unlikely they would have received such an enthusiastic welcome at each town.
Formal recognition by the Knights Templar carried great weight in Europe at this time.
I WILL SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN!
Moreover, Hugo's passionate concern and responsibility helped the people to more easily accept the idea of a Children's Crusade. In doing so, many parents gladly sent their dear children to join the cause.
The Children's Crusade now started receiving substantial amount of donations as well.

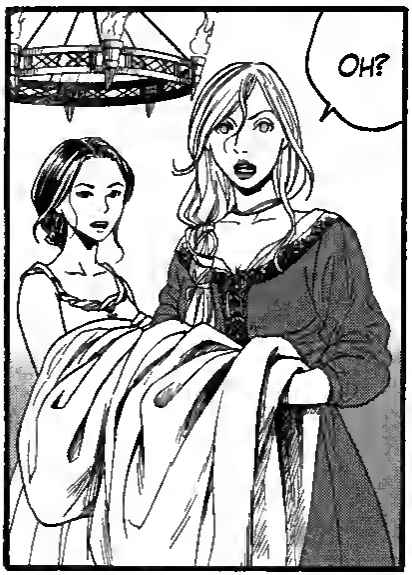

WE'RE RICH!
LOOK AT ALL THIS TREASURE!
I'm in Heaven!
HAVING ALL THIS MONEY WILL SURELY AID OUR JOURNEY.
HUGO ALWAYS GOES AHEAD OF US TO THE NEXT TOWN TO PREPARE FOR OUR WELCOME!
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO HUGO.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO ACT SO AS TO NOT BETRAY HIS EXPECTATIONS!
WE REALLY ARE IN HIS DEBT.

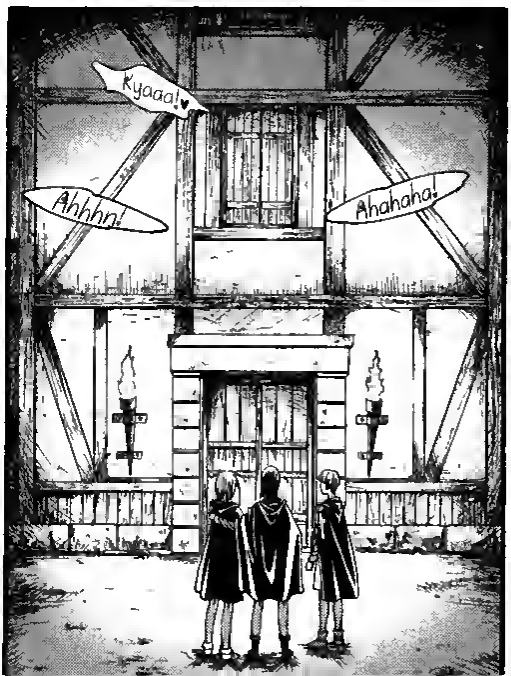
THAT'S DUE IN NO SMALL PART TO YOUR MIRACLES!
I'M STARTING TO THINK IT'LL BE A SMOOTH TRIP ALL THE WAY TO JERUSALEM!
IT FEELS A LITTLE SCARY THAT EVERYTHING HAS GONE SO SMOOTHLY.
RIGHT.
NICOLAS, IT IS PRECISELY FROM HERE ON THAT WE MUST FOCUS.
THIS STRING OF GOOD LUCK WILL SURELY CAUSE SOME OF OUR FELLOW MEMBERS TO SLIP INTO CARELESS BEHAVIOUR.
LILIAN, WHERE ARE YOU...?

HURRY UP, LILIAN!

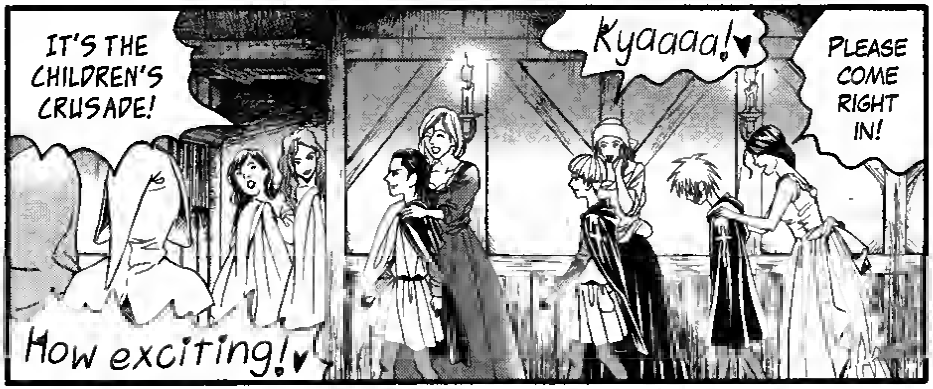

JEEZ, YOU'RE SUCH A KID.
IT'LL BE FINE!

I'M SCARED.

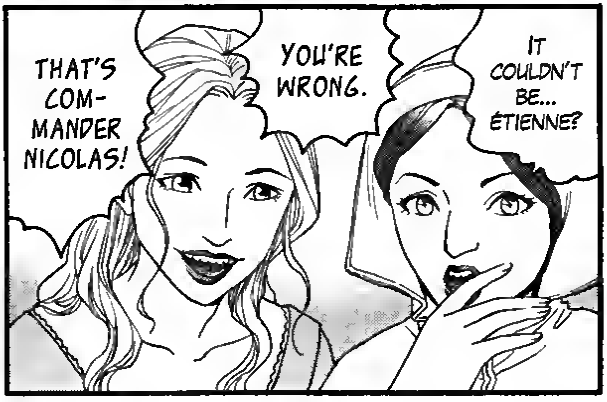

OH?

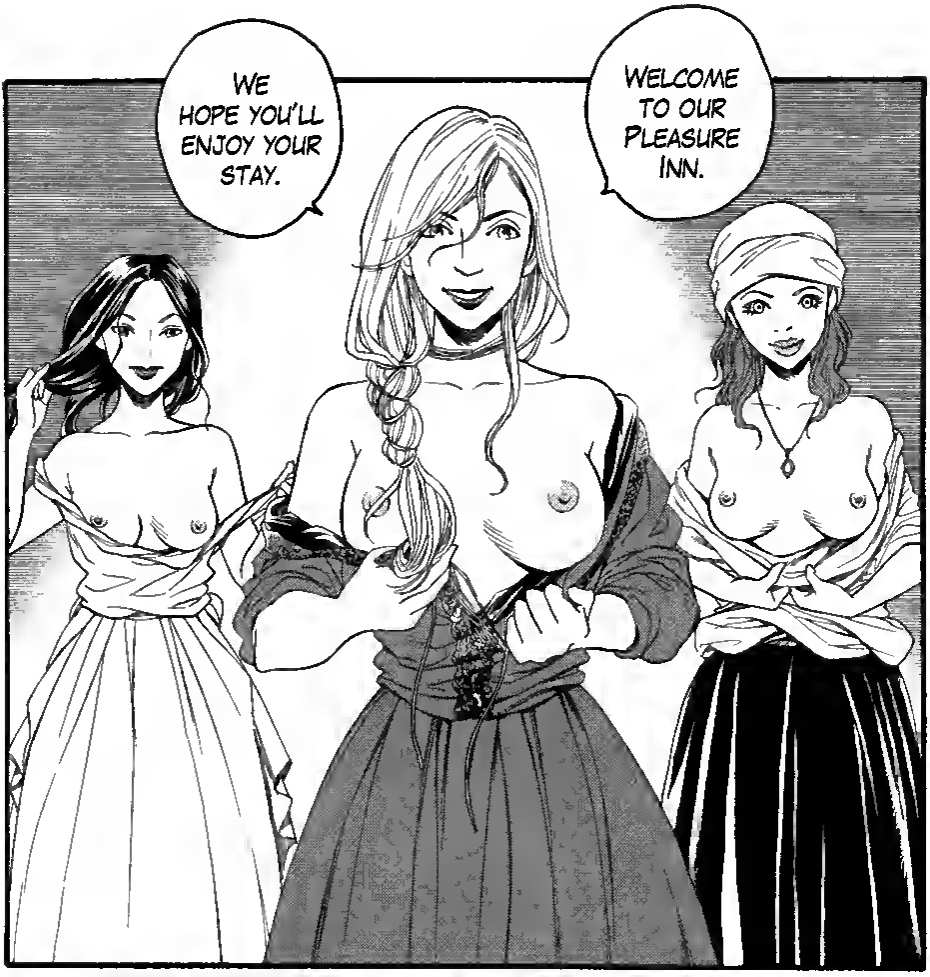

Kyaaa!♥
Ahhhh!
Ahahaha!

AREN'T YOU MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!?
WELCOME TO OUR ESTAB-LISHMENT!
IT CAN'T BE!

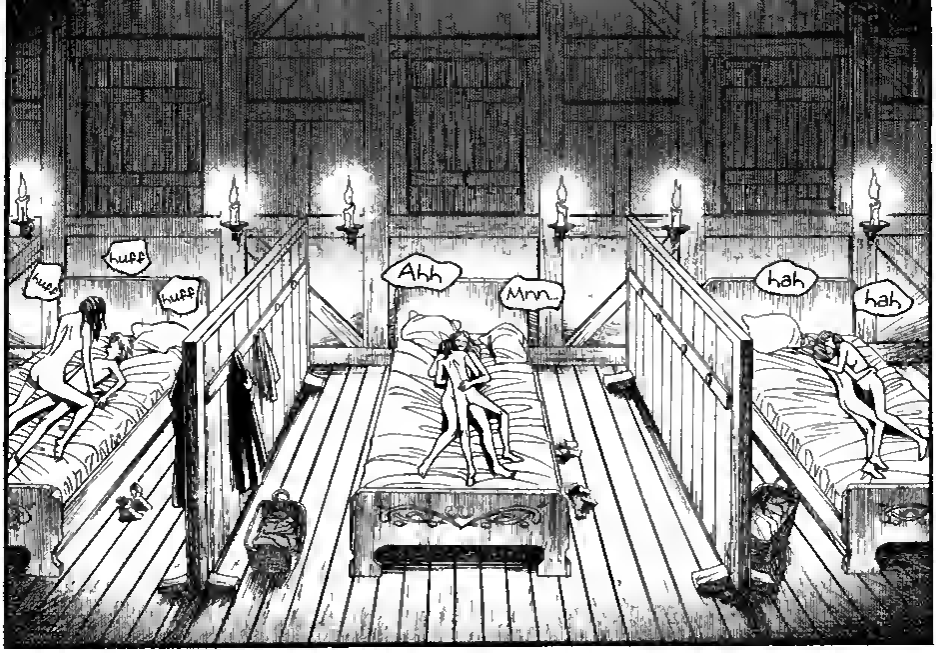

IT'S THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!
Kyaaaa!♥
PLEASE COME RIGHT IN!
How exciting!♥

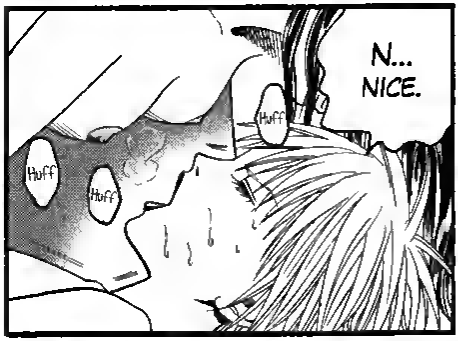
S-
SURE.


THAT'S COM-MANDER NICOLAS!
YOU'RE WRONG.
IT COULDN'T BE... ÉTIENNE?

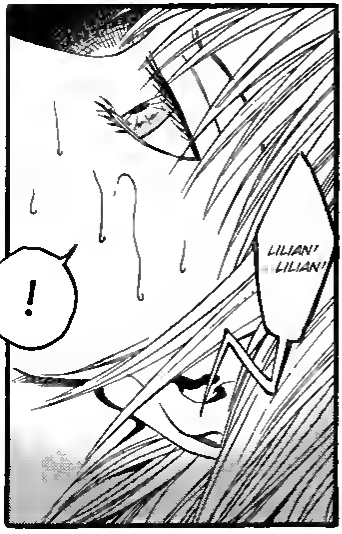


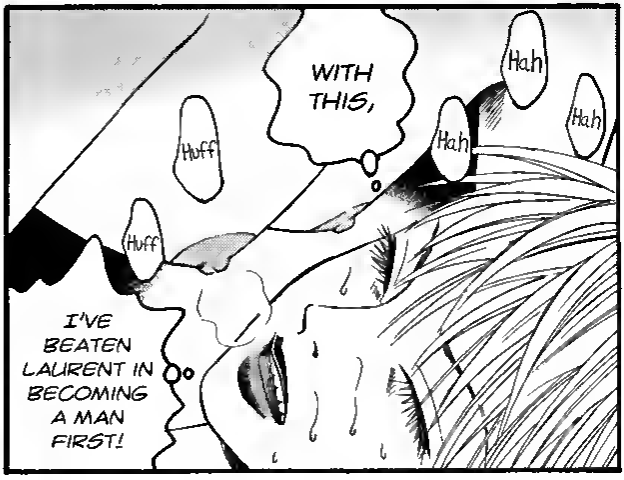
Although prostitutes and brothels were not publically accepted in Medieval Europe, they were often tacitly tolerated and could be found at the outskirts of towns.

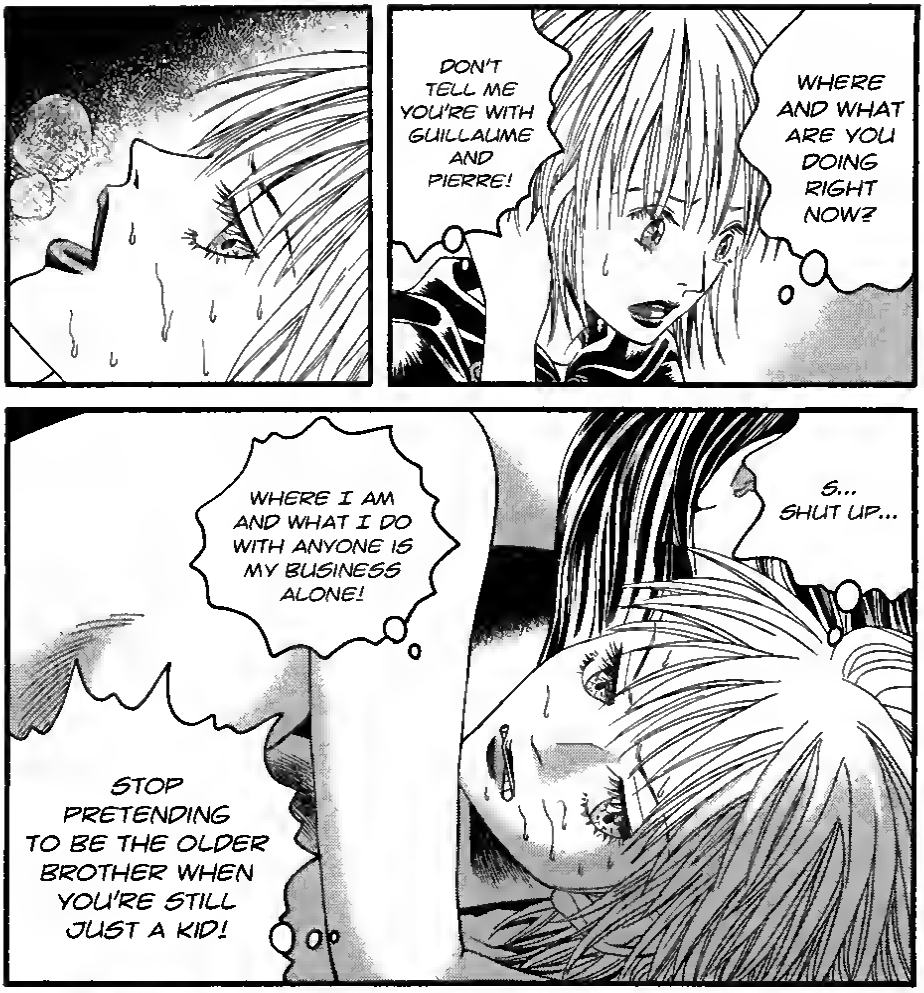

huff
huff
huff
Ahh
Mnn
hah
hah

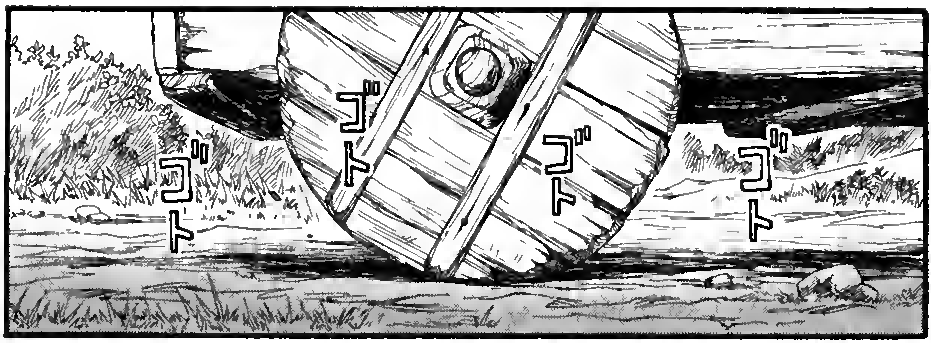

N... NICE.
Huff
Huff
Huff

HOW D'YA LIKE WOMEN, LILIAN?


!
LILIAN! LILIAN!


WITH THIS,
Huff
Huff
Hah
Hah
Hah
I'VE BEATEN LAURENT IN BECOMING A MAN FIRST!


DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE WITH GUILLAUME AND PIERRE!
WHERE AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
WHERE I AM AND WHAT I DO WITH ANYONE IS MY BUSINESS ALONE!
S... SHUT UP...
STOP PRETENDING TO BE THE OLDER BROTHER WHEN YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID!
LILIAN!
LILIAN!
PTT!
!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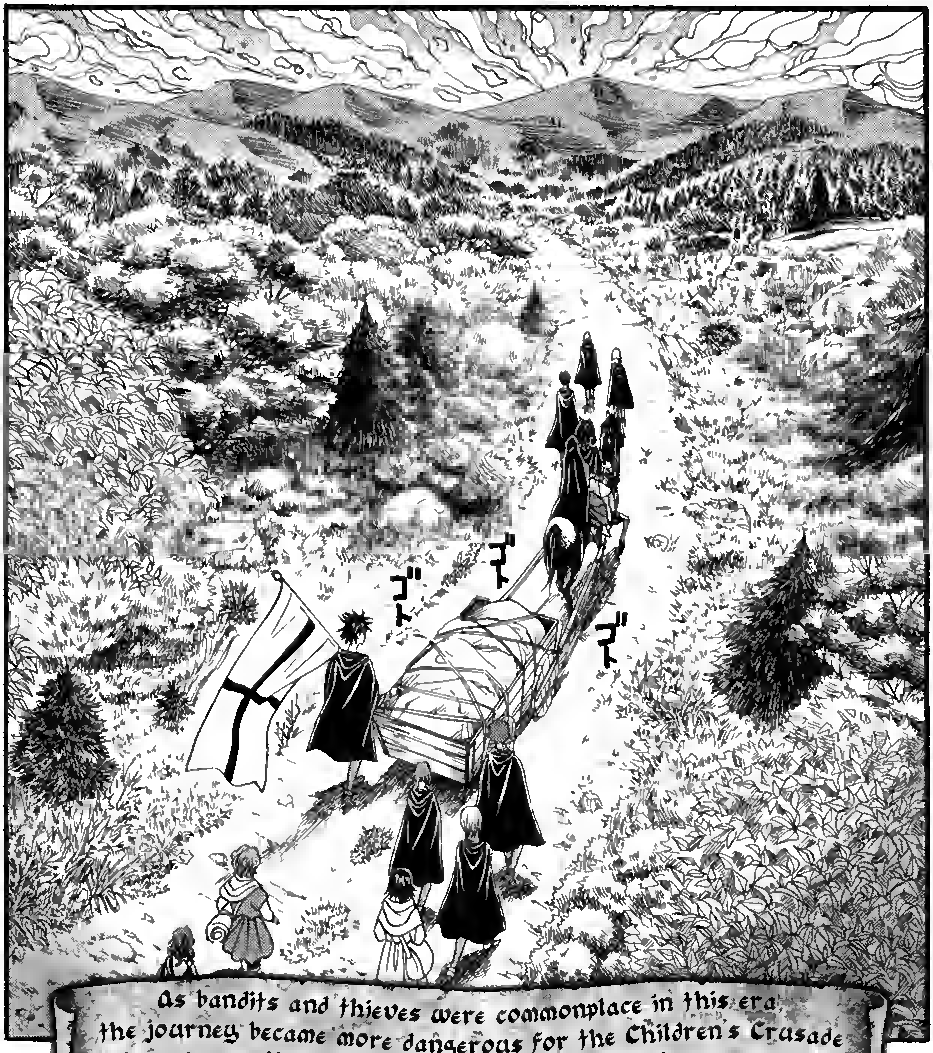
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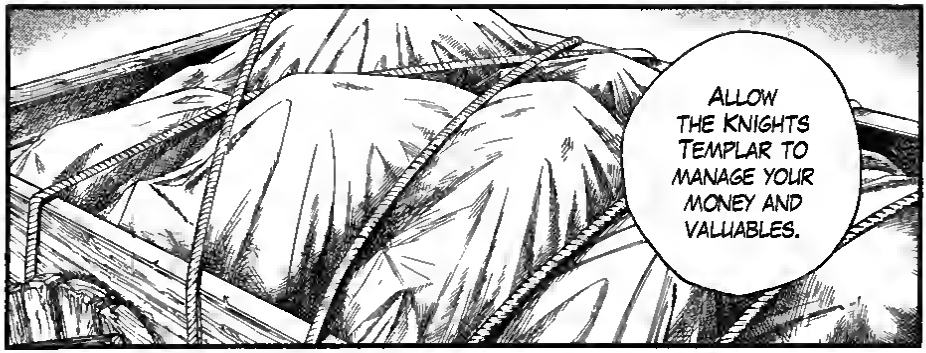
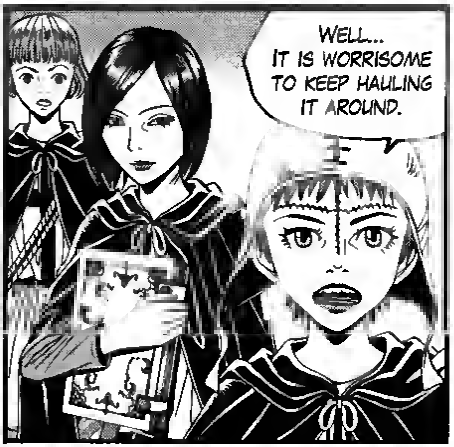
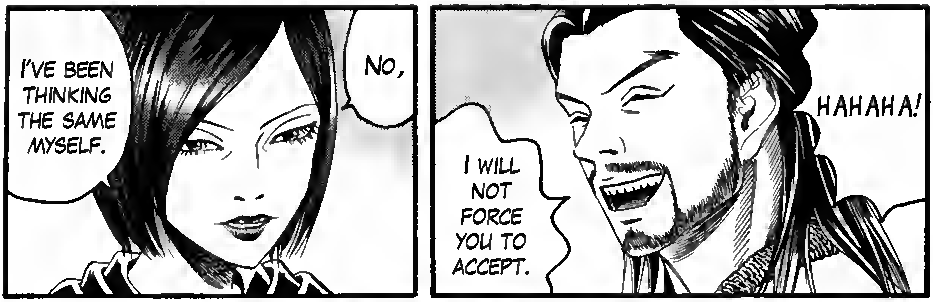
As bandits and thieves were commonplace in this era,
the journey became more dangerous for the Children's Crusade
as they carried the donations with them

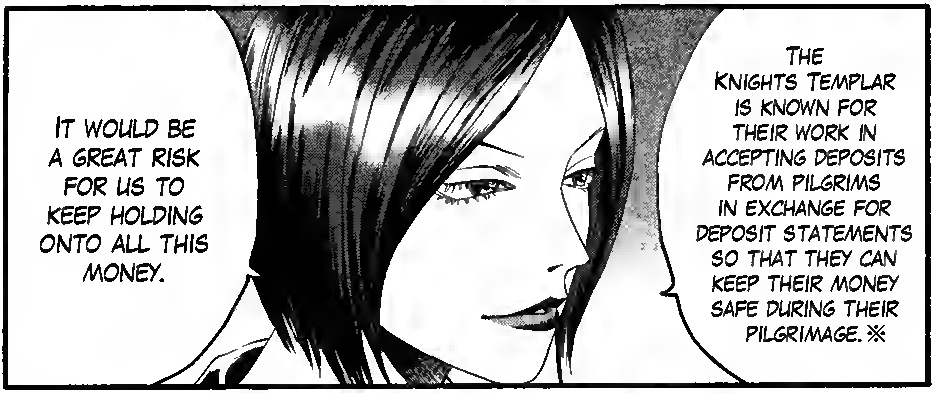
I HAVE TWO SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE.

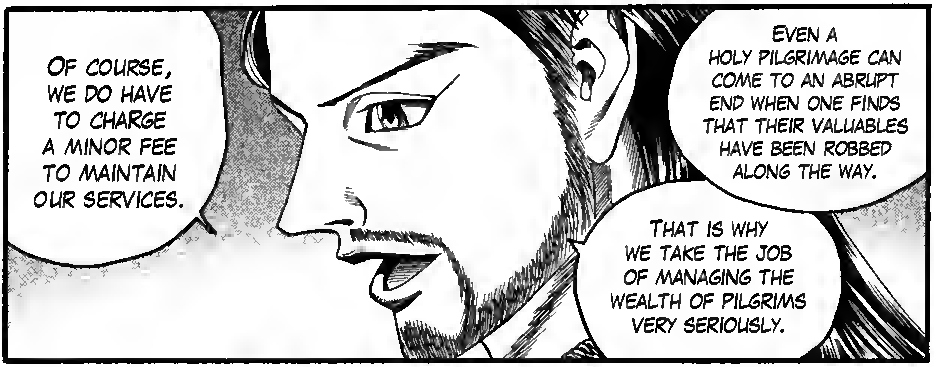

ALLOW THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY AND VALUABLES.

DON'T BE RUDE, LEONARDO!
SO THAT'S YOUR SCAM TO GET AWAY WITH THE LOOT, HUH!?


WELL... IT IS WORRISOME TO KEEP HAULING IT AROUND.




IT WOULD BE A GREAT RISK FOR US TO KEEP HOLDING ONTO ALL THIS MONEY.
THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IS KNOWN FOR THEIR WORK IN ACCEPTING DEPOSITS FROM PILGRIMS IN EXCHANGE FOR DEPOSIT STATEMENTS SO THAT THEY CAN KEEP THEIR MONEY SAFE DURING THEIR PILGRIMAGE.※


OF COURSE, WE DO HAVE TO CHARGE A MINOR FEE TO MAINTAIN OUR SERVICES.
EVEN A HOLY PILGRIMAGE CAN COME TO AN ABRUPT END WHEN ONE FINDS THAT THEIR VALUABLES HAVE BEEN ROBBED ALONG THE WAY.
THAT IS WHY WE TAKE THE JOB OF MANAGING THE WEALTH OF PILGRIMS VERY SERIOUSLY.

※THERE WERE NUMEROUS KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BRANCHES ACROSS EUROPE WHERE DEPOSIT STATEMENTS COULD BE EXCHANGED FOR THEIR WRITTEN CASH VALUE. IN ESSENCE, THEY COULD BE SEEN AS EARLY PRECURSORS TO MODERN-DAY BANKS.

YES,
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT, NICOLAS.
IT'S BECAUSE FUNDS ARE NECESSARY TO FINANCE THE HOLY WAR, RIGHT HUGO!?
SO SHALL I DEPOSIT YOUR VALUABLES AT THE NEXT TOWN?
I WAS WORRIED FOR A MINUTE THERE.
I WAS HOLDING ONTO MY SWORD THE WHOLE TIME!
WAIVE OFF THE FEE, WILL Y?
KNOCK IT OFF!
AS FOR MY SECOND SUGGESTION,
I WAS THINKING WE MAKE CAMP HERE FOR TODAY AND DO SOME TRAINING.

CAMP...
OUT HERE?
S-SOUNDS SCARY.
GUYS, WE'RE GONNA CAMP OUT!
YEAH.
SOUNDS GOOD, DON'CHA THINK, ÉTIENNE?
CAMPING!
CAMPING!
A WARRIOR CAN'T EXPECT THERE TO ALWAYS BE A WARM BED FOR HIM.
IT'S BEST TO GET USED TO IT NOW.
THEN LET'S FIRST DO SOME SWORD TRAINING!
BOO!
BOO!
I'LL JOIN IN ON THE CAMPOUT AS WELL.
HURRAY!

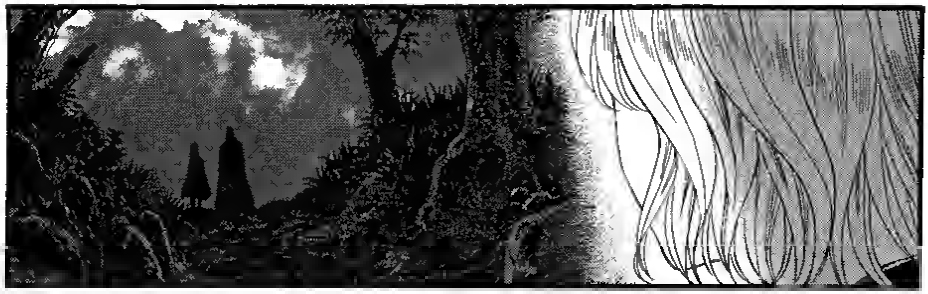
HAH!
AHH!
YAH!
HAH!
I WONDER WHERE LILIAN WENT?
HAH!
HERE I COME!
LET'S PRETEND WE ALREADY DID THE TRAINING
YEAH, SCREW THIS.
YOUR SWORD OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR WEEPS AT YOUR POOR FORM!
UGH!
BEND YOUR KNEES MORE.
AREN'T YOU GONNA PRACTICE, CHRISTIAN?
WHOA!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW TO HOLD IT.
I THINK IT BEST YOU NEVER HOLD A BLADE, ÉTIENNE
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA GET STRONGER THAN GUY!

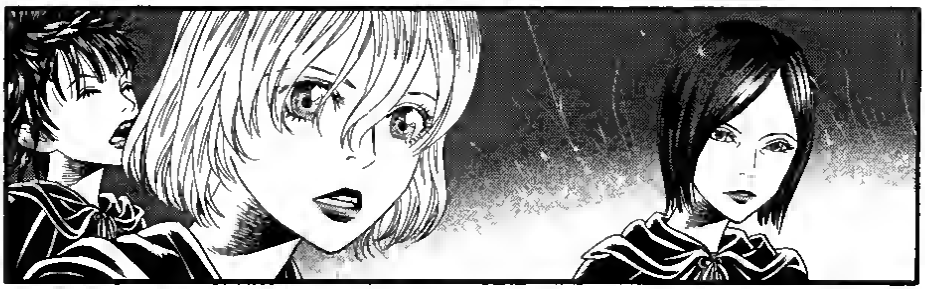
※ SUCRE: SUGAR, BEING VERY RARE IN THE MEDIEVAL EUROPE, WAS OFTEN USED AS MEDICINE.

HUGO...
HE'S SUCH AN AMAZING MAN!
FINE WITH GIVING ME SOMETHING SO VALUABLE...!?
Y-YOU'RE...
YOU MIGHT EVEN FIND YOURSELF ALL BETTER BEFORE YOU REACH JERUSALEM!
HAHAHA!

HE'S STILL SWINGING THAT SWORD.
NICOLAS IS ON FIRE.
HUFF
HUFF
I'M STILL NOT THERE YET THOUGH.
YOUR SWINGS SOUND CONSIDERABLY BETTER NOW.
Huff
Huff
I'VE GOTTA BECOME AN EXCELLENT KNIGHT SO I DON'T DISGRACE THIS SWORD!

HUGO, WHAT ARE INFIDELS LIKE?
INFIDELS?
I HATE INFIDELS...
INFIDELS KILLED MY FATHER...
YOUR DESIRE TO BECOME A KNIGHT IS A LOT STRONGER THAN THE OTHERS.
SIMPLY PUT, THEY'RE DEMONS.
I'VE CUT DOWN MANY INFIDELS IN MY LIFETIME.
NICOLAS, COME.
?
YOU'RE AMAZING, HUGO.
I'M GOING TO KILL THE INFIDELS ONE DAY TOO AND AVENGE MY FATHER!





AHHHH!
THIS FEELS GREAT!

AH-
AHHHHH!

AND A NEW YOU WAS BORN!
A PART OF YOU DIED JUST NOW!
YOUR BROTH-ER!?
MY BROTH-ER!
THE OLD YOU DIED AND YOU'VE BEEN REBORN AS MY BROTHER!
THAT'S RIGHT!

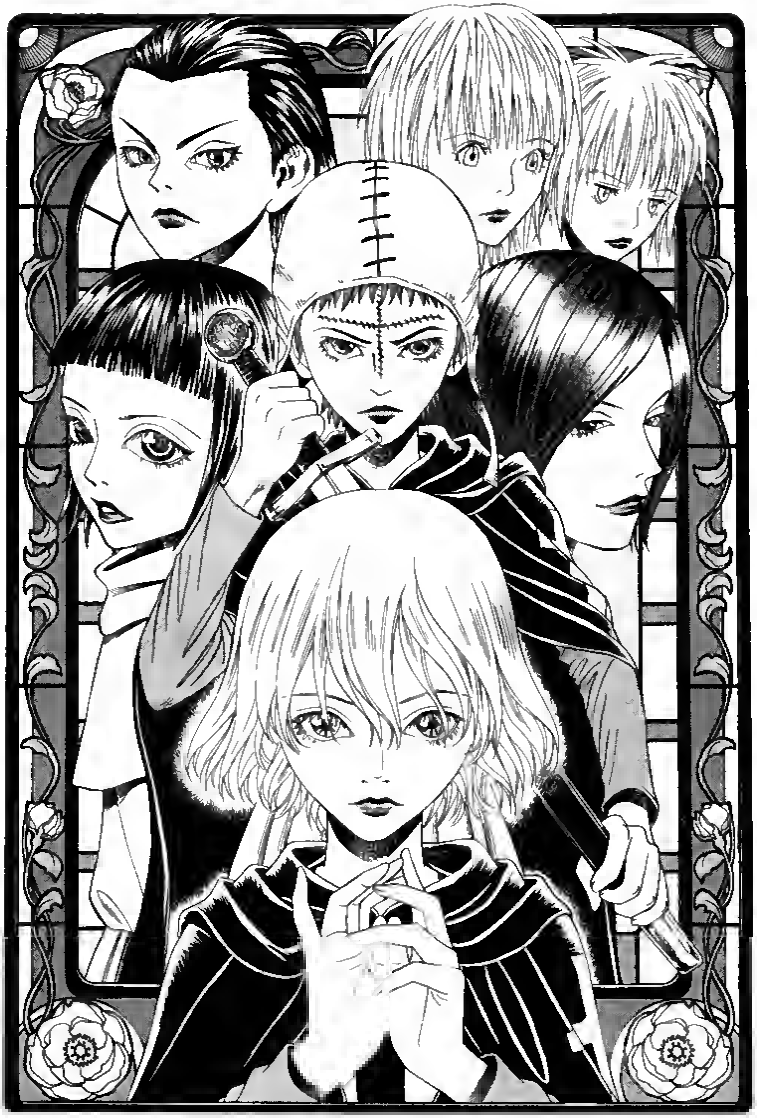
THAT'S RIGHT!
THEN... CAN I CALL YOU BROTHER AS WELL...?
BECOME A FINE COMMANDER SO THAT YOU DO NOT DISGRACE ME AS YOUR BROTHER!
THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE DEPENDS ON YOU!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I DIED...
AND I WAS REBORN ANEW...

At the next town
THEY'RE HERE!
IT'S ÉTIENNE AND THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE!
WELCOME!
WE LOVE YOU!
HURRAY!

IF THERE ARE BRAVE CHILDREN HERE, THEN LET US FIGHT TOGETHER!
IT IS ÉTIENNE'S DESIRE,
TO DYE THIS SWORD RED WITH INFIDEL BLOOD!

!
NICO-
LAS!?



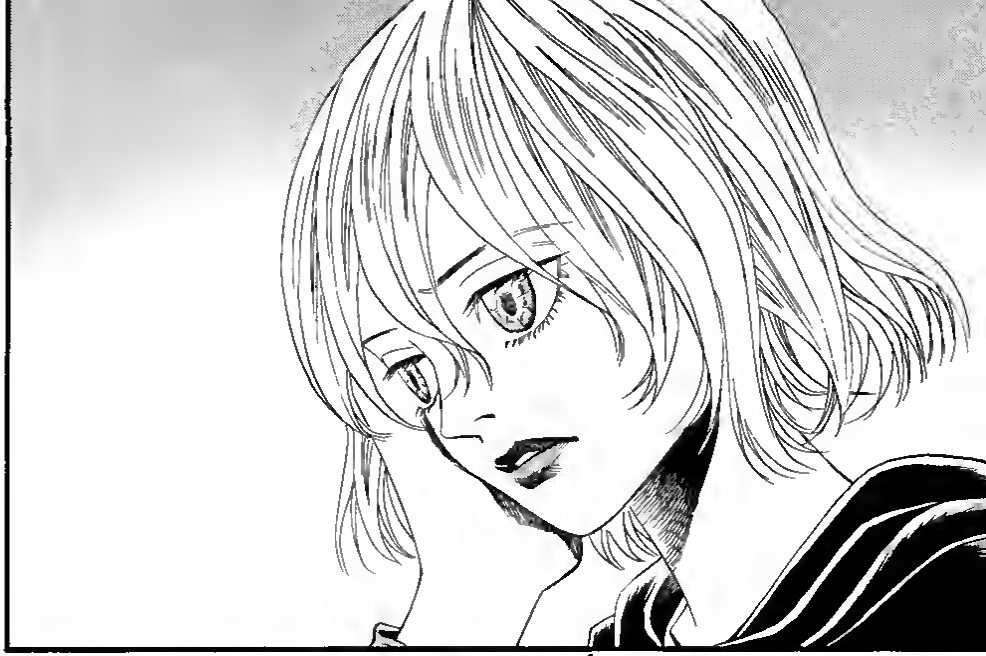
Chapter 8

Heretics

IT IS ÉTIENNE'S DESIRE,
TO DYE THIS SWORD RED WITH INFIDEL BLOOD!
WE ARE THE CHILDREN CRUSADERS, A BRANCH OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR!
IF THERE ARE BRAVE CHILDREN HERE, THEN LET US FIGHT TOGETHER!
オオオ
The Children's Crusade continued to receive a warm reception wherever they went.

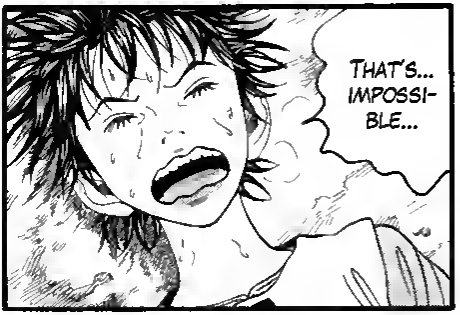
Young girls would shower them in flower petals.
Ahh
Gaze
Wow!
And feasts of the highest quality were put out for them.
But in the towns that the Children's Crusade followed, the people had to endure food shortages soon after.

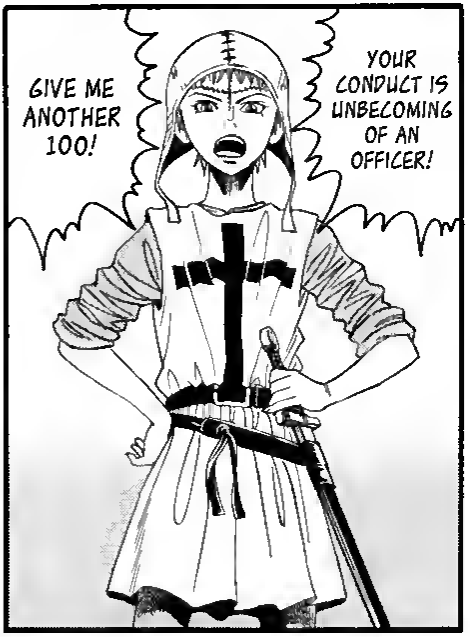
Even so, they thought their
hunger pains a glorious thing to endure,
and so they continued to give
the Children's Crusade their food and
precious children without restraint.
Their belief that Étienne
was Jesus Christ reborn
was unwavering.

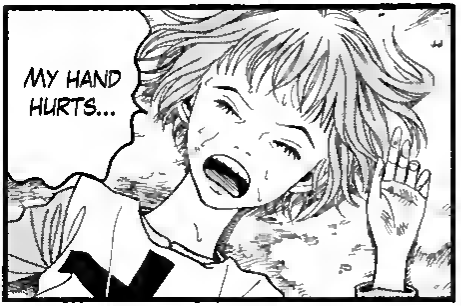


AHH!
RAH!
HAH!
YAH!
SO MORE SWINGS!
HEY, DON'T SLACK OFF!
DO IT PROPERLY!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

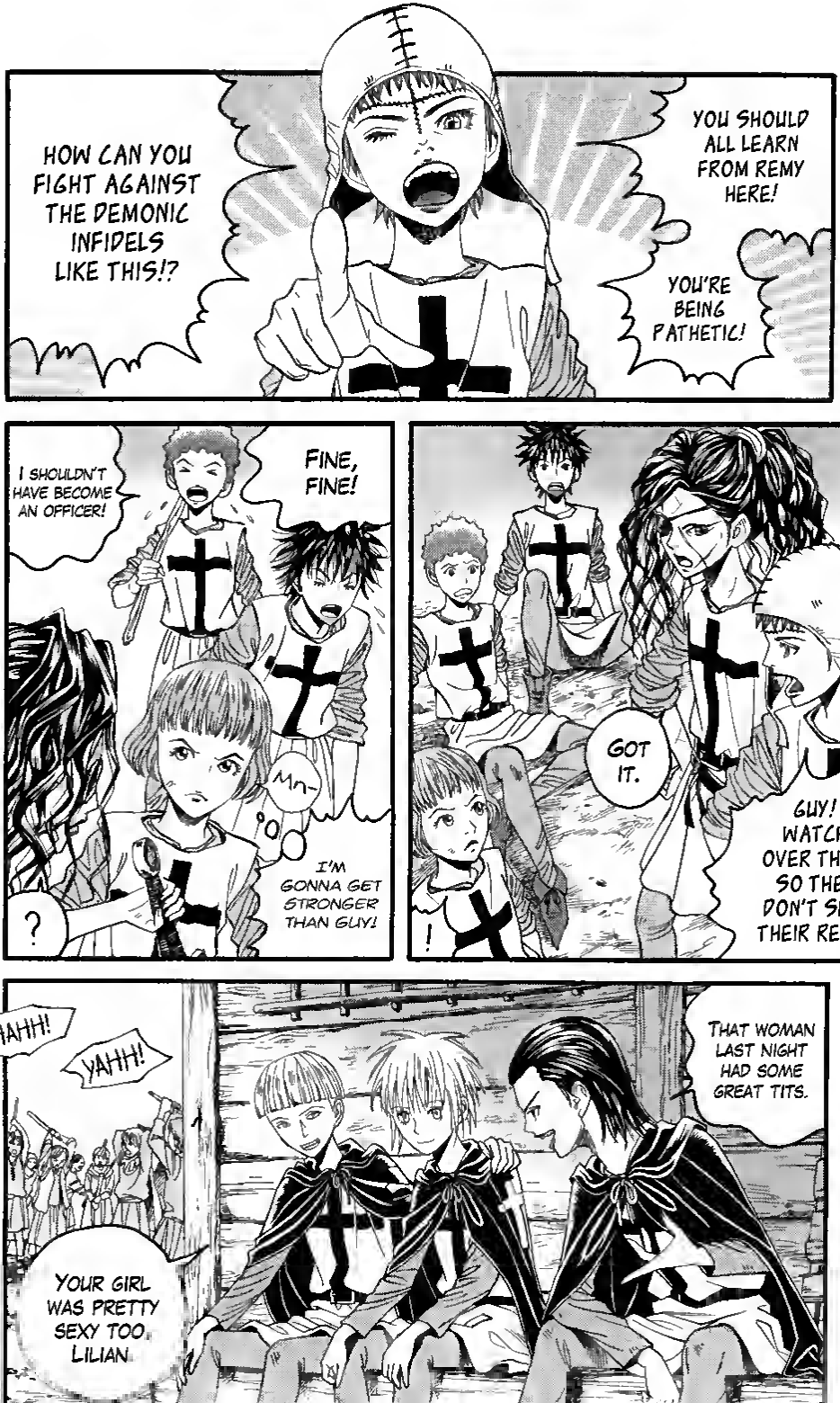

THAT'S... IMPOSSI-BLE...


GIVE ME ANOTHER 100!
YOUR CONDUCT IS UNBECOMING OF AN OFFICER!

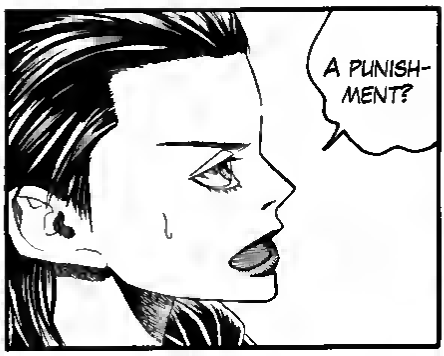

MY HAND HURTS...

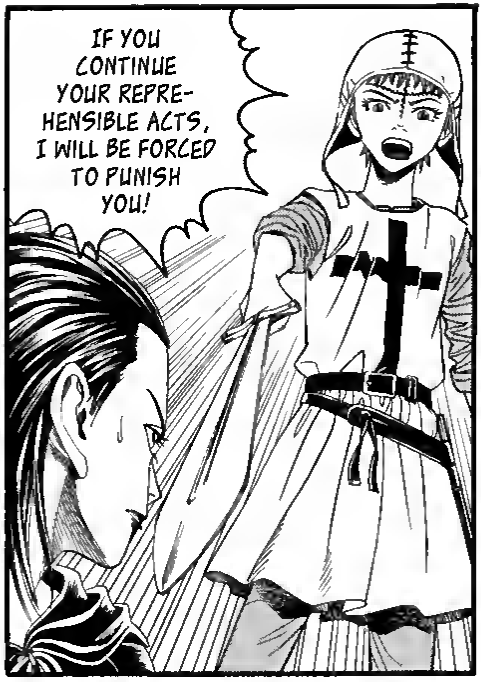
I... I WANT TO BECOME STRONG...

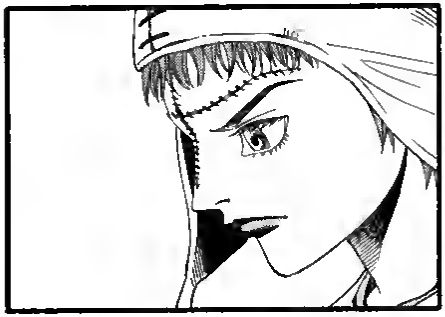
NO, YOU'RE FINE, REMY!
WHA!
105
106
ゴゴゴゴ


HOW CAN YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE DEMONIC INFIDELS LIKE THIS!?
YOU SHOULD ALL LEARN FROM REMY HERE!
YOU'RE BEING PATHETIC!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BECOME AN OFFICER!
FINE, FINE!
Mn-
I'M GONNA GET STRONGER THAN GUY!
?
GOT IT.
GUY! WATCH OVER THEM SO THEY DON'T SKIP THEIR REPS!
!
HAHH!
YAHH!
YOUR GIRL WAS PRETTY SEXY TOO, LILIAN.
THAT WOMAN LAST NIGHT HAD SOME GREAT TITS.

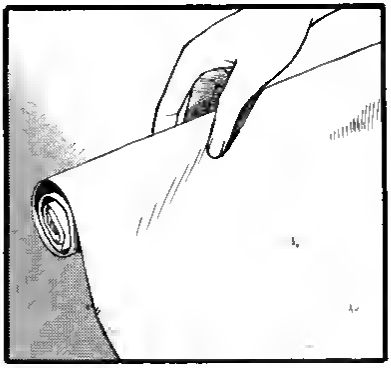
HAHA.
NOW YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE A MAN.
I PITY THOSE WHO DON'T.
YEAH,
SO ARE YOU USED TO WOMEN YET?
NICOLAS!
GUILLAUME!
I HEARD RUMOURS THAT YOU VISITED A BROTHEL!
ACK!
WE ARE PALADINS! HOLY KNIGHTS!
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU THAT WE'RE NOT SIMPLE KNIGHTS HERE!

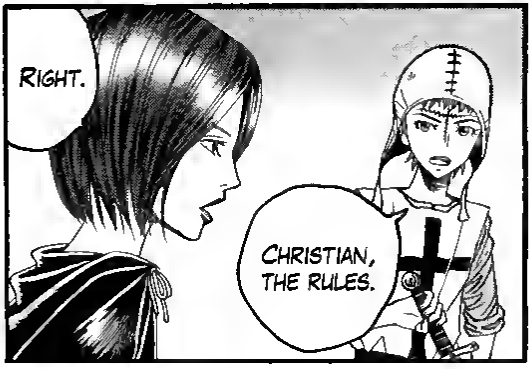

A PUNISH-
MENT?


IF YOU
CONTINUE
YOUR REPRE-
HENSIBLE ACTS,
I WILL BE FORCED
TO PUNISH
YOU!

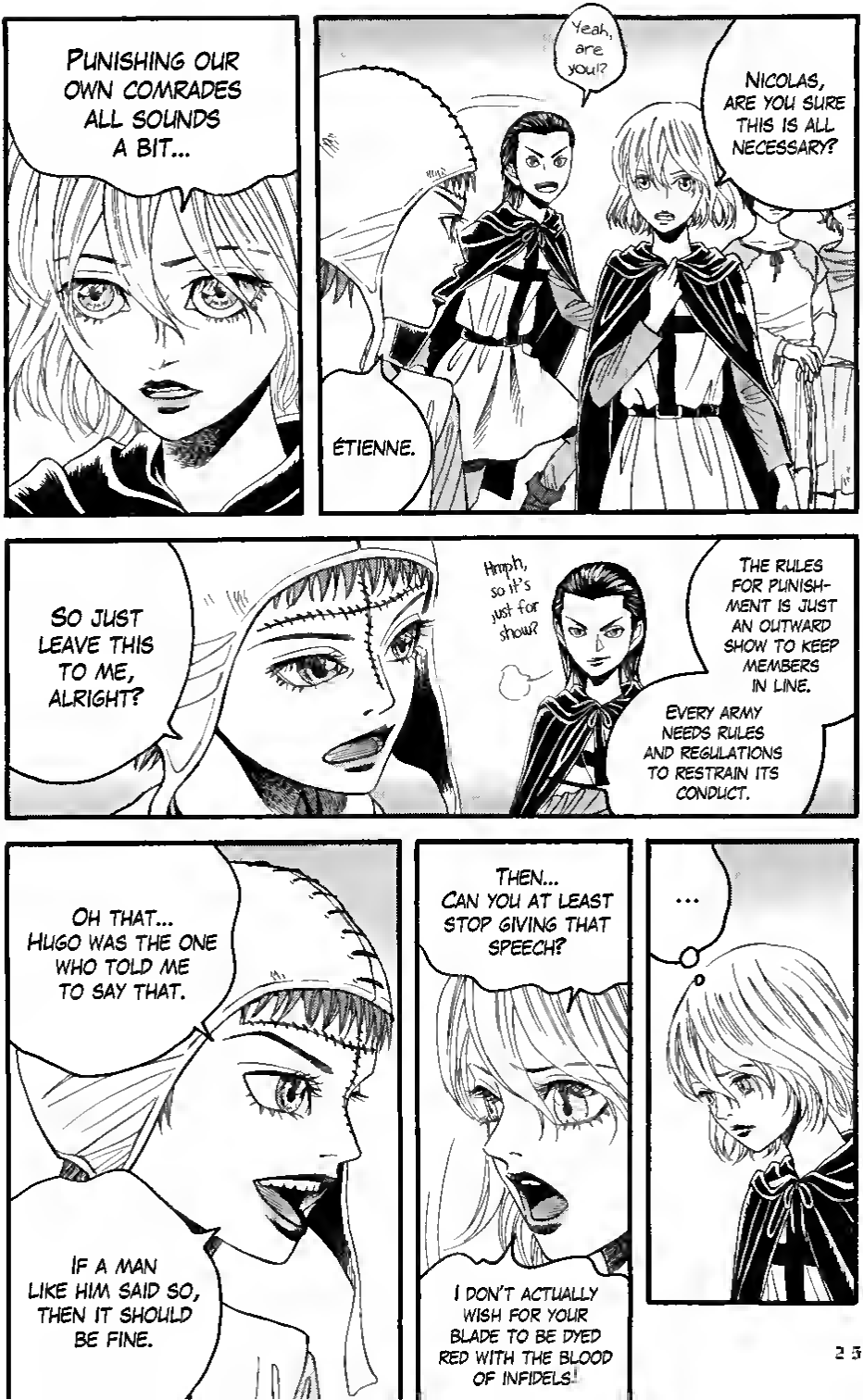


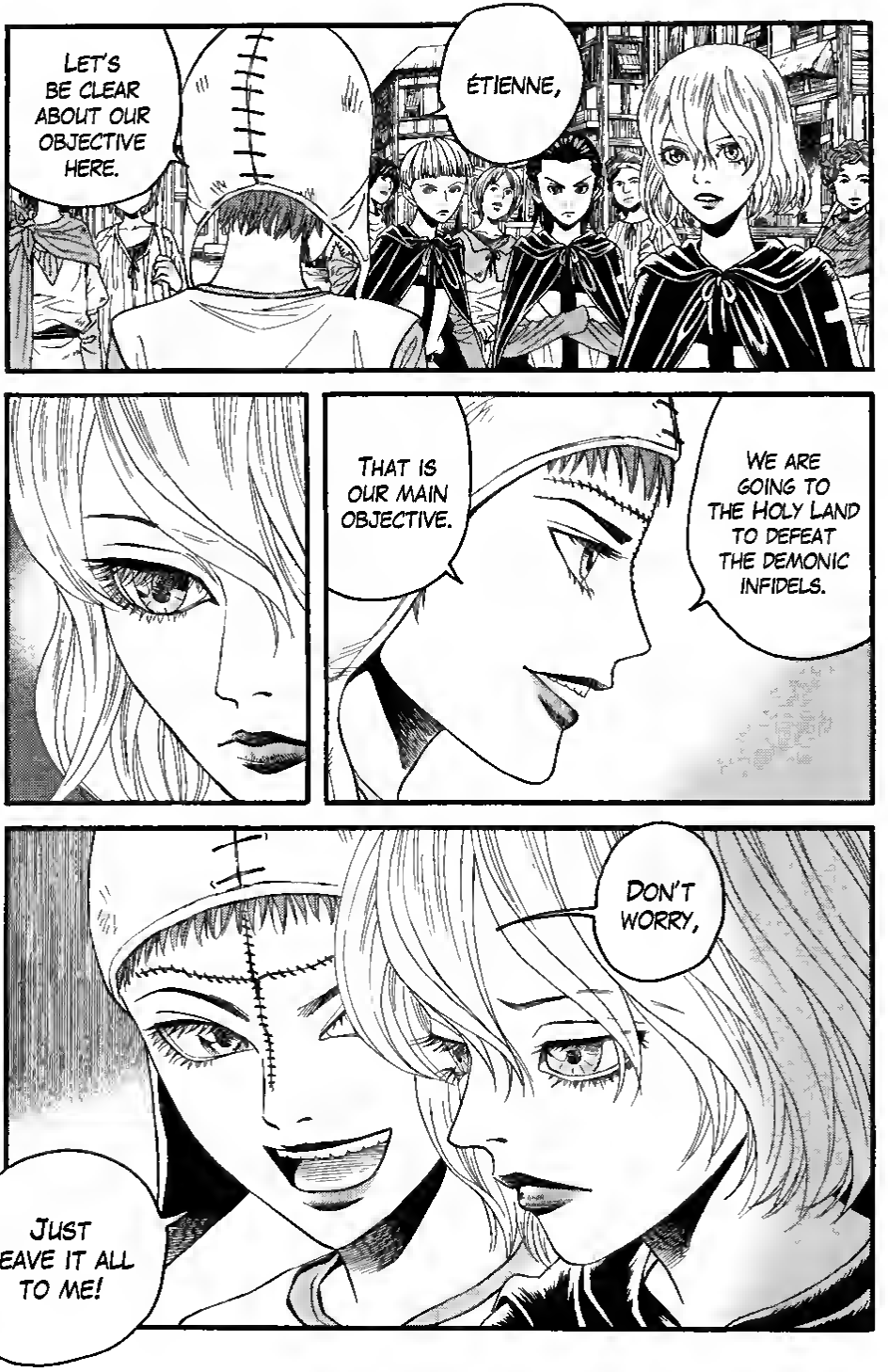
EVERYONE,
LISTEN UP!

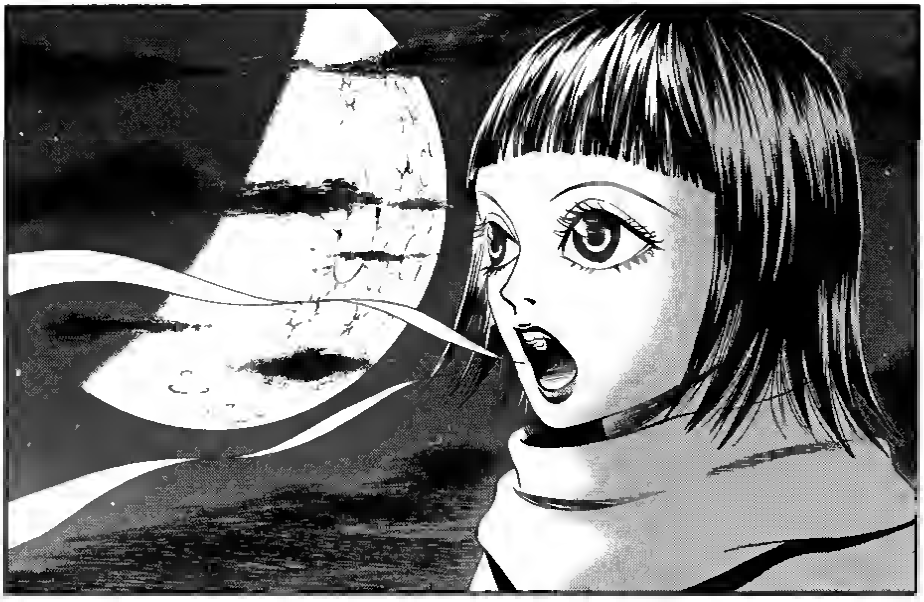


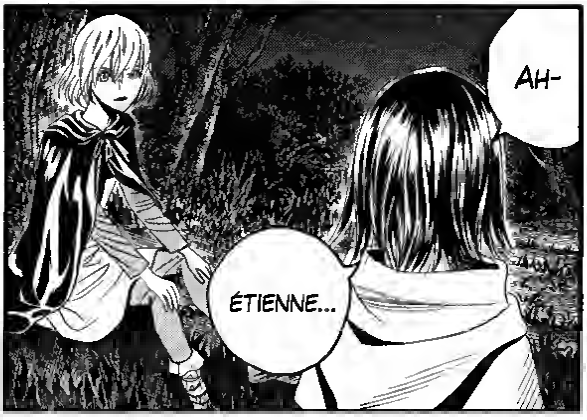

RIGHT.
CHRISTIAN,
THE RULES.

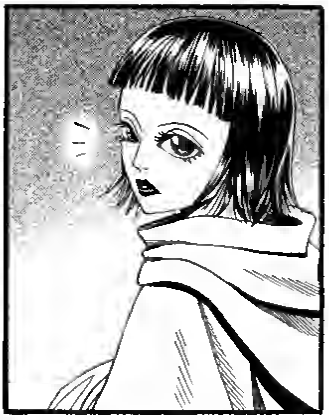
WE MUST FOLLOW THE CHIVALRIC CODE IF WE ARE TO BE PALADINS!
ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE AMONG THE 12 APOSTLES!
THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE CODE,
WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED AS WRITTEN HERE!
THERE ARE SEVERAL GRADES OF PUNISHMENT WHICH FROM LEAST TO MOST SEVERE IS...
DENIAL OF FOOD,
WHIPPING,
AND EXECUTION.
GOT THAT, GUILLAUME?
A-AL-RIGHT...
LIKE I EVEN KNOW WHAT THE CHIVALRIC CODE IS!


PUNISHING OUR OWN COMRADES ALL SOUNDS A BIT...
Yeah, are you!?
NICOLAS, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL NECESSARY?
ÉTIENNE.
SO JUST LEAVE THIS TO ME, ALRIGHT?
Hmph, so it's just for show?
THE RULES FOR PUNISHMENT IS JUST AN OUTWARD SHOW TO KEEP MEMBERS IN LINE.
EVERY ARMY NEEDS RULES AND REGULATIONS TO RESTRAIN ITS CONDUCT.
OH THAT... HUGO WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO SAY THAT.
IF A MAN LIKE HIM SAID SO, THEN IT SHOULD BE FINE.
THEN... CAN YOU AT LEAST STOP GIVING THAT SPEECH?
I DON'T ACTUALLY WISH FOR YOUR BLADE TO BE DYED RED WITH THE BLOOD OF INFIDELS!
...

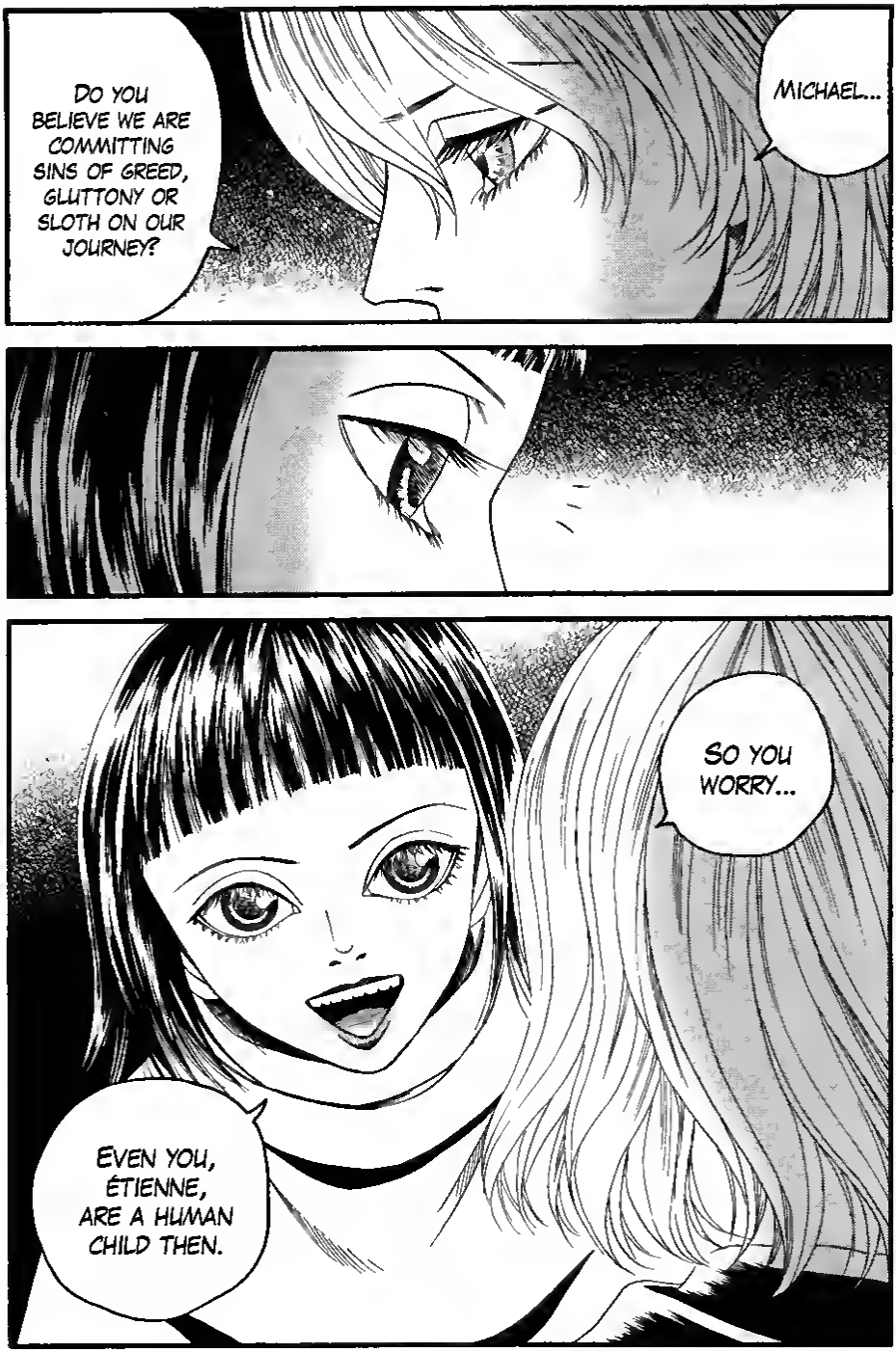

LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT OUR OBJECTIVE HERE.
ÉTIENNE,
THAT IS OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE.
WE ARE GOING TO THE HOLY LAND TO DEFEAT THE DEMONIC INFIDELS.
DON'T WORRY,
JUST LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!




AH-
ÉTIENNE...

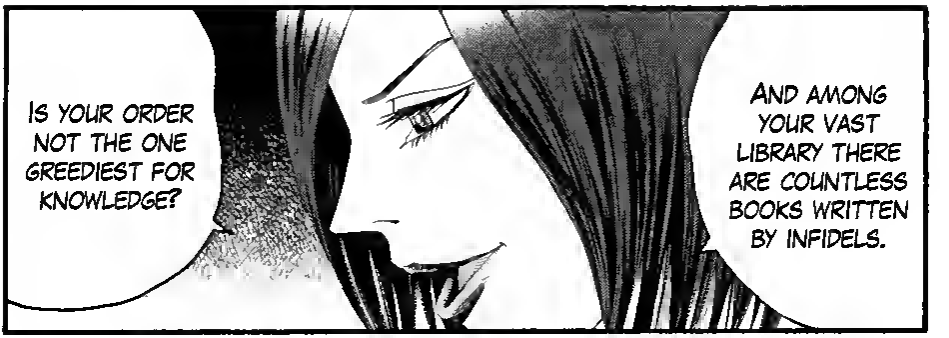


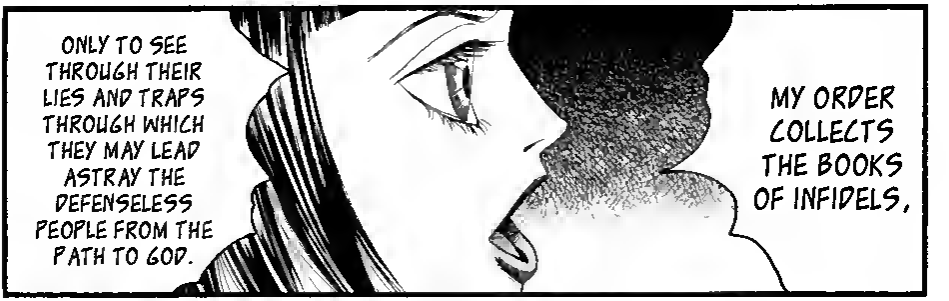
AH!
IT'S TRULY THAT OF AN ANGEL.
YOU REALLY DO HAVE A LOVELY VOICE, MICHAEL.
MY DEAR CHILD OF GOD...
YOUR HOLY FOOT... IS BECOMING WET FROM THE EVENING DEW.
I MUST...
KEEP IT DRY...


MICHAEL...
DO YOU BELIEVE WE ARE COMMITTING SINS OF GREED, GLUTTONY OR SLOTH ON OUR JOURNEY?
SO YOU WORRY...
EVEN YOU, ÉTIENNE, ARE A HUMAN CHILD THEN.

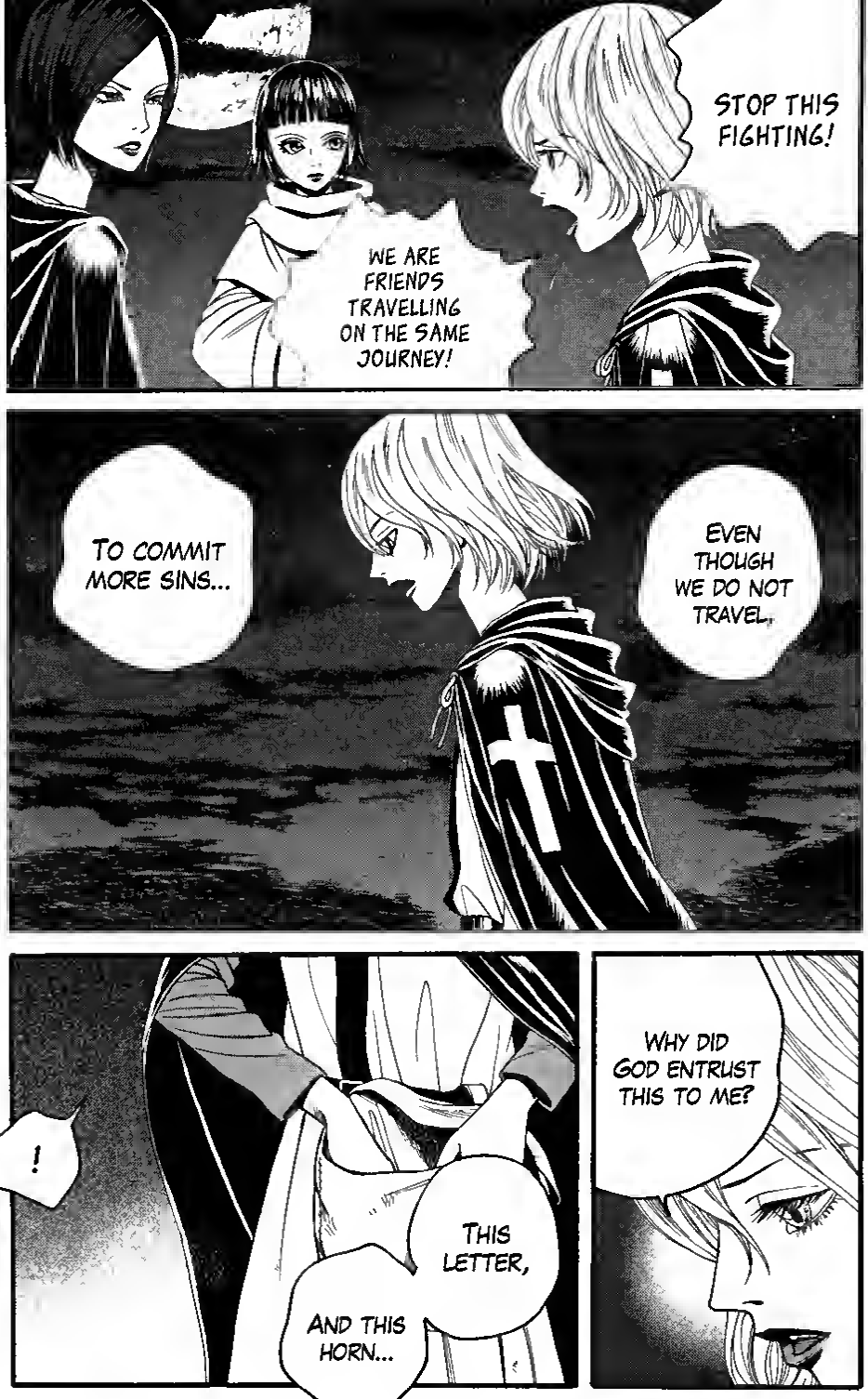
!
YOU SOUND QUITE HAPPY TO SAY THAT, MICHAEL.
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG,
WITH ÉTIENNE BEING GOD'S CHILD?
ÉTIENNE, YOUR WORRIES AND DOUBTS ARE FUTILE.
WE ARE LEARNING THINGS ON THIS JOURNEY THAT MOST ADULTS WOULDN'T LEARN IN THEIR WHOLE LIFETIME.

That is what makes the knowledge we gain afterwards valuable.
To learn much is also to fail much.
The fruits of knowledge resembles the fruits of sin...
Knowledge... The greatest sin.
That's an interesting remark,
Considering that the Cistercian Order you belong to gathers books from all over the world.

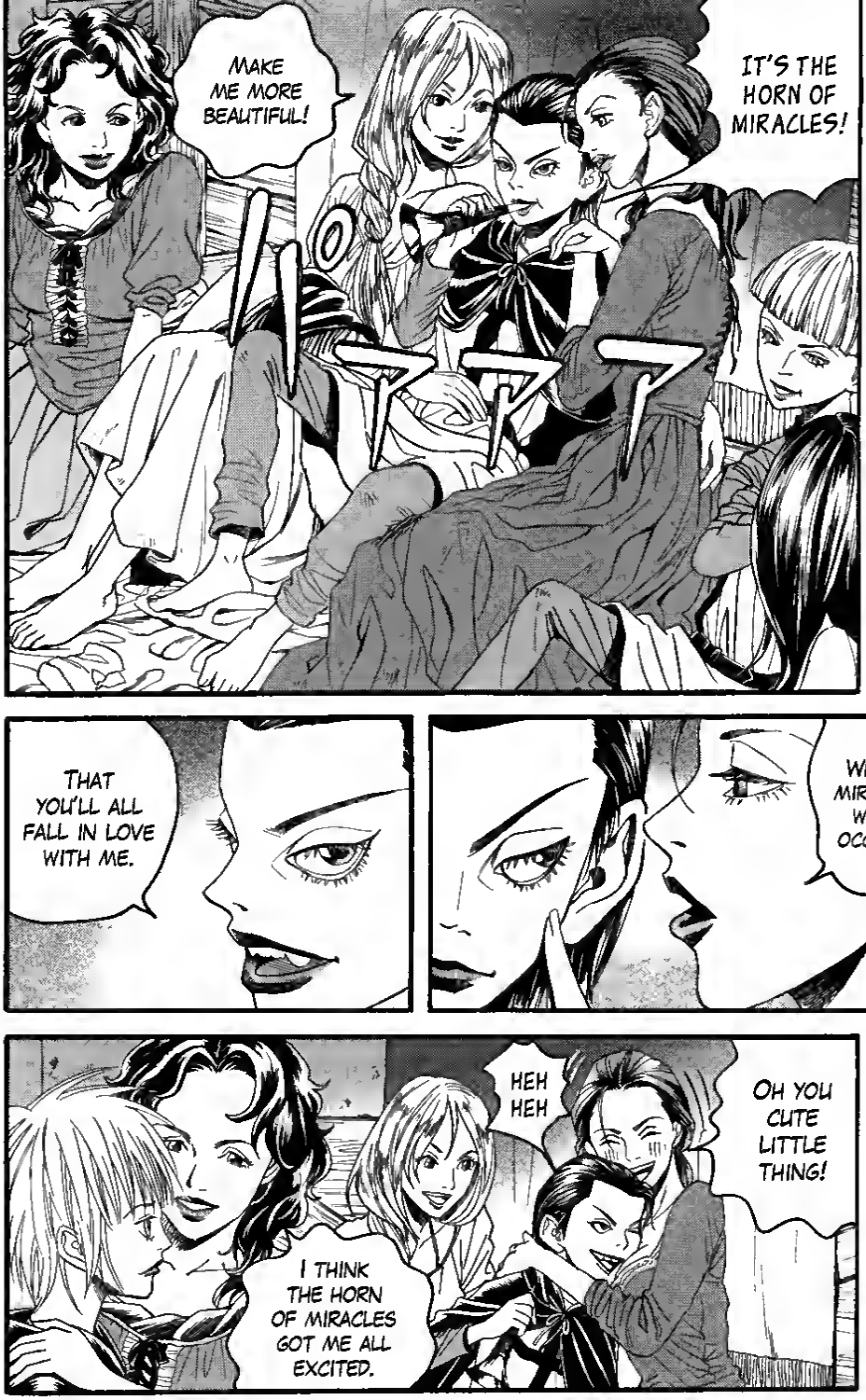

IS YOUR ORDER NOT THE ONE GREEDIEST FOR KNOWLEDGE?
AND AMONG YOUR VAST LIBRARY THERE ARE COUNTLESS BOOKS WRITTEN BY INFIDELS.


ONLY TO SEE THROUGH THEIR LIES AND TRAPS THROUGH WHICH THEY MAY LEAD ASTRAY THE DEFENSELESS PEOPLE FROM THE PATH TO GOD.
MY ORDER COLLECTS THE BOOKS OF INFIDELS,

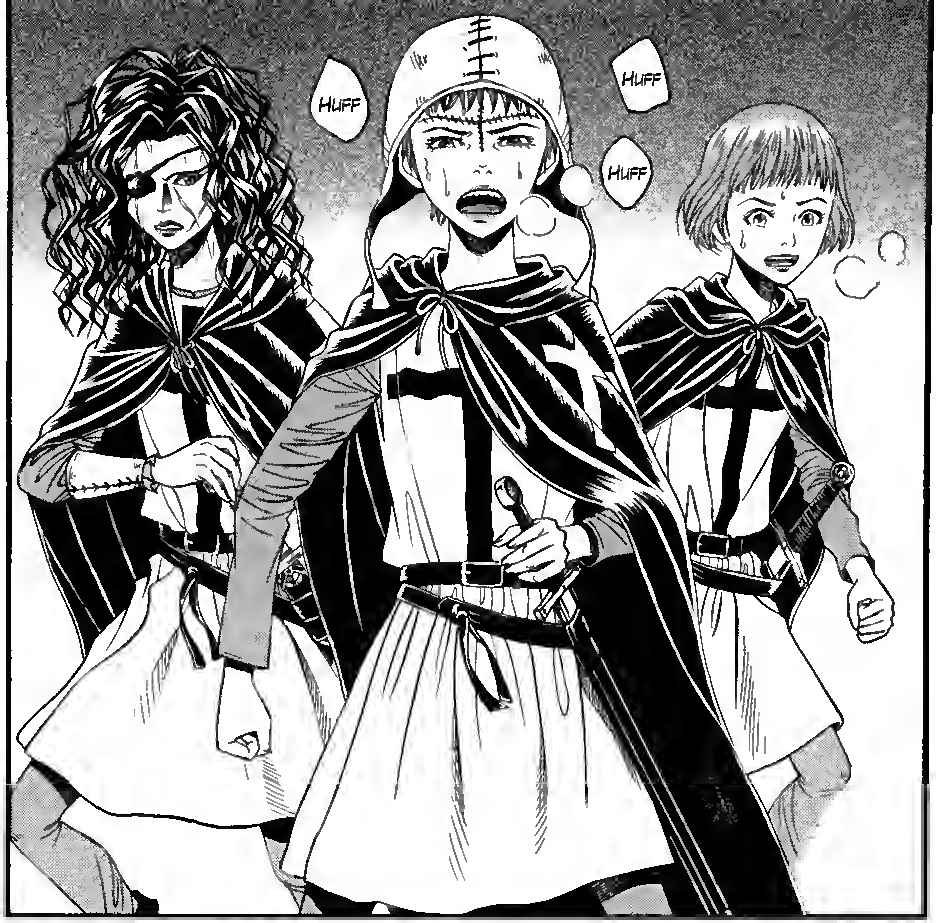
YOUR THOUGHTS... ARE QUITE SIMILAR TO THAT OF AN INFIDEL!
YOU MUST CONFESS YOUR SINS!

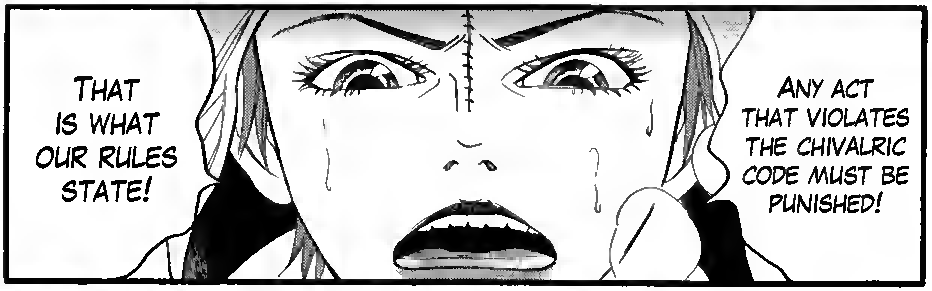

STOP THIS FIGHTING!
WE ARE FRIENDS TRAVELLING ON THE SAME JOURNEY!
TO COMMIT MORE SINS...
EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT TRAVEL,
!
THIS LETTER,
AND THIS HORN...
WHY DID GOD ENTRUST THIS TO ME?

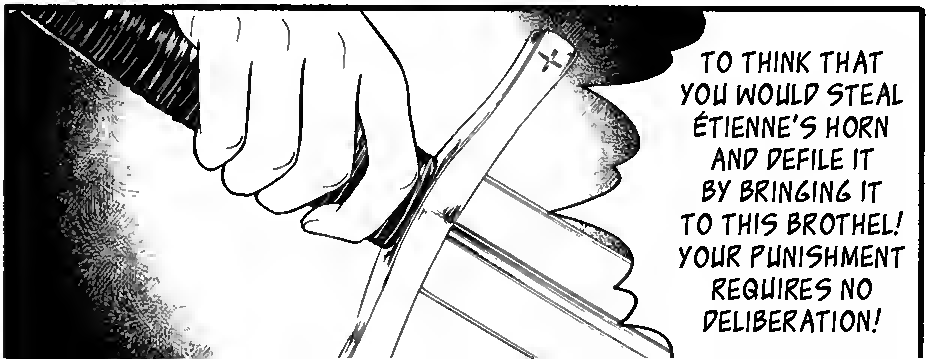
THE HORN!
IT'S NOT HERE...
ア ア ア ア


MAKE ME MORE BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S THE HORN OF MIRACLES!
THAT YOU'LL ALL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.
WHAT MIRACLE WILL OCCUR?
I THINK THE HORN OF MIRACLES GOT ME ALL EXCITED.
HEH HEH
OH YOU CUTE LITTLE THING!

YOU'VE GOT LEWD HANDS IN SPITE OF YOUR PURE FACE.
OH, YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
HEH
I SEE YOU'VE GROWN EXCITED DOWN HERE TOO, LILIAN.
MY, YOU'RE HEALTHY.
?
KYAAA!
ドドドドド


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


THAT IS WHAT OUR RULES STATE!
ANY ACT THAT VIOLATES THE CHIVALRIC CODE MUST BE PUNISHED!


TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD STEAL ÉTIENNE'S HORN AND DEFILE IT BY BRINGING IT TO THIS BROTHEL! YOUR PUNISHMENT REQUIRES NO DELIBERATION!

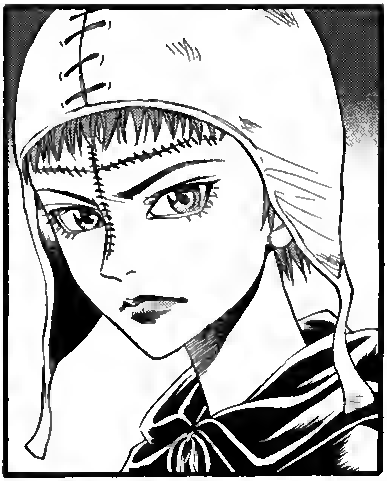
EXE-CU-TION!?
E-
KYAAA!
GUILLAUME!
YOU MUST BE EXECUTED!
L-LOOK, I WAS PLANNING TO RETURN THE HORN SOON ENOUGH.
STOP WITH THE BAD JOKES, NICOLAS.
KILLING ME OVER THAT IS A LITTLE OVERBOARD, NO?
NO...
IT CAN'T BE...

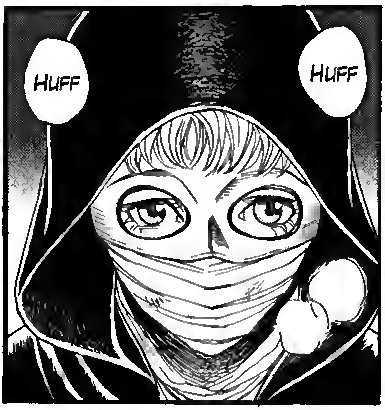
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DIRTY YOUR OWN HANDS.
I'LL DO IT.
!
GUY!?
W-
WAIT!
I THOUGHT THE PUNISHMENTS WERE JUST FOR SHOW!
STOOOOOPPP!

I... I'VE FORGIVEN HIM SO-
HUFF
HUFF
STOP IT!
ÉTIENNE!
IF WE OVERLOOK THIS, THEN WE'LL NEVER MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE!
THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT YOU!
KILLING...
HUFF
HUFF
IS WRONG...

SO YOU SHOULDN'T KILL HIM...
PEOPLE... CAN ONLY DO GOOD ACTS WHILE THEY'RE ALIVE.
HUFF
HUFF

I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
MOVE IT, GUY!
AHH!

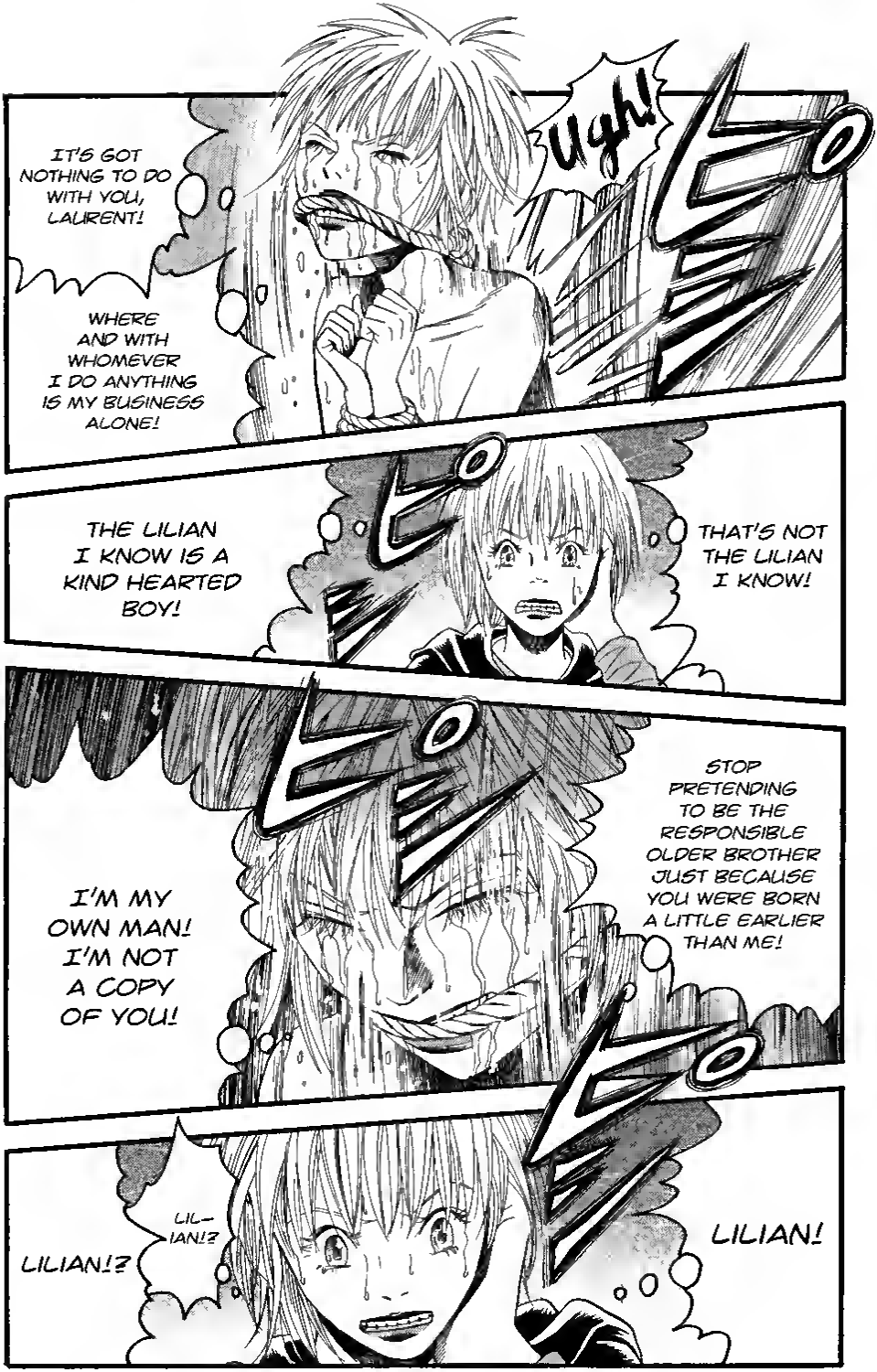



HUFF
HUFF

ドン
ドン

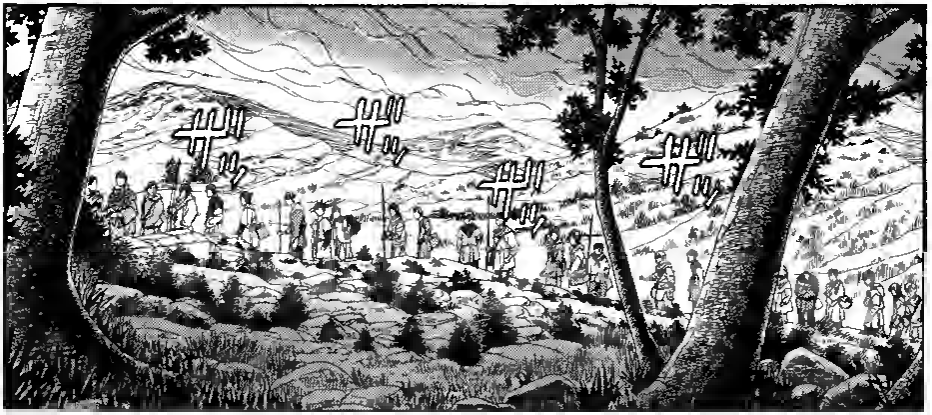
MY-
MY PINKY!
MY PINKY!
AAGHHHH!
YOU SHOULD THANK REMY FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE.
Ugh!
Ngh!
Agh!
FUCK!
AGHHHHHHH!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?

PIERRE AND LILIAN ARE TO BE SENTENCED TO 100 LASHINGS!
UGH!
AGH!
UGHH!
NGHH!
MNF!
WHY WERE YOU HANGING OUT WITH THOSE GUYS!?
LILIAN!
LILIAN!
UGHH!


IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, LAURENT!
WHERE AND WITH WHOMEVER I DO ANYTHING IS MY BUSINESS ALONE!
Ugh!
THE LILIAN I KNOW IS A KIND HEARTED BOY!
THAT'S NOT THE LILIAN I KNOW!
I'M MY OWN MAN! I'M NOT A COPY OF YOU!
STOP PRETENDING TO BE THE RESPONSIBLE OLDER BROTHER JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE BORN A LITTLE EARLIER THAN ME!
LILIAN!?
LIL— IAN!?
LILIAN!

LET'S STOP AT HERE...
NICOLAS.

HE'S ALREADY FAINTED...

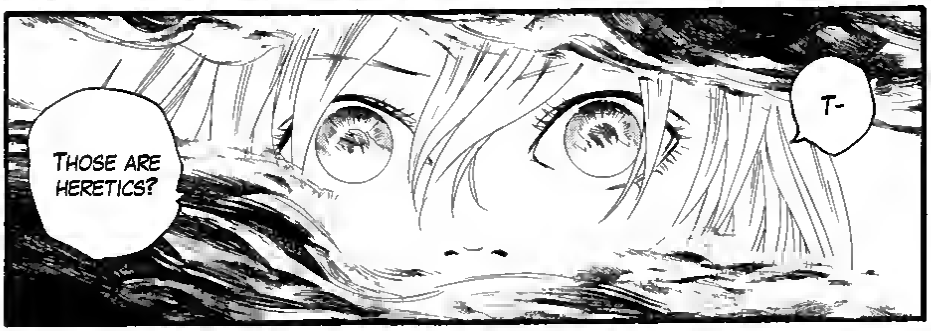


ARE THERE NO PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE?
THAT'S STRANGE...
ゴォォォォ
A FIRE?

ゴオオオオオオ

THEY'RE HERETICS.
NO...
THEY'RE BURNING CRIMINALS!
THE PEOPLE THEY'RE BURNING ARE MOST LIKELY CATHARS.
THE ONES DIRECTING THE BURNING OVER THERE ARE CATHOLIC FRIARS. ※
CATHARISM IS A CHRISTIAN SECT THAT CRITICIZES AND REJECTS CATHOLIC SACRAMENTS AND THE CHURCH ITSELF IN ORDER TO PURSUE WHAT THEY CONSIDER A PURE LIFE.
FOR THAT AND OTHER DISTINCTIVE BELIEFS, THE POPE OFFICIALLY DECLARED THEM AS HERETICS AND CALLED FOR THEIR PERSECUTION.
CATHARS?

※ THESE FRIARS WOULD LATER FOUND THE DOMINICAN ORDER, A MENDICANT ORDER WELL KNOWN FOR BATTLING HETERODOXY SPREADING THROUGHOUT MEDIEVAL EUROPE.


T-
THOSE ARE HERETICS?

THEY HAVE NO HORNS,
OR ANY DEMONIC FEATURES.
AREN'T THEY HUMANS JUST LIKE US?
ヨ〃ォォォォ

YOU'RE WRONG.
WHETHER INFIDELS OR HERETICS, THEY'VE ALL REJECTED THE TRUE PATH TO GOD!
THOSE WHO STRAY FROM THE PATH TO GOD CANNOT BE CALLED HUMAN!
IF WE ARE HUMAN AND OUR PATH IS RIGHT, THEN THEY MUST BE WRONG AND DEMONS!

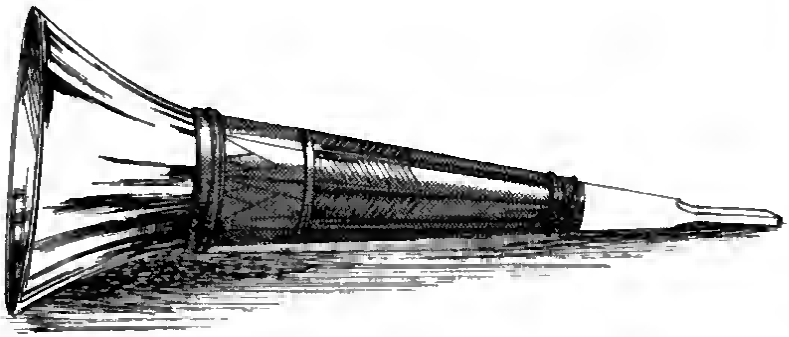
In 1212, the 12-year old Étienne left on a journey, accompanied by 12 apostles.
They began their march under the shining hope of justice.
These children feared nothing in their path.

But perhaps Étienne could already hear back then.
The creeping footsteps of the grievous and tragic collapse awaiting them.

To be
continued...

Usamaru Furuya

La Croisade des Innocents



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二〇〇九年
続巻刊行

インノサン少年十字軍　上

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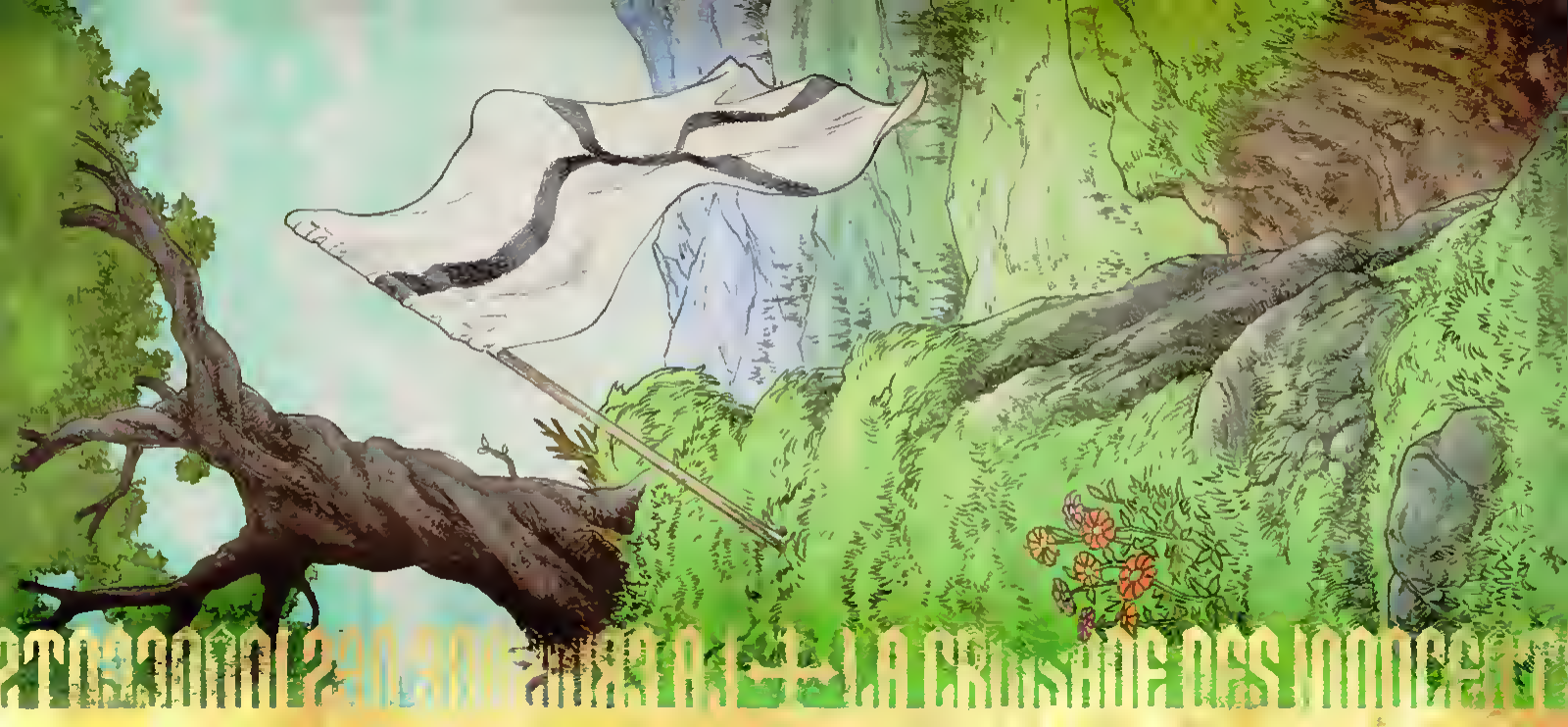

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